THE

GENEALOGY

OF

FREEMAN W. COATS

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FREEMAN WILLIAM COATS

Part I. - Ancestors of Chester B. Coats

Sec. 1. - The Hadden and Barton families

Most of us have at some time or other asked the question, Who am I? Or, Where did I come from? From these questions, the hobby of genealogy was born. I have made some search. I haven't answered all of the questions but at least it's a beginning. I have written as much as I can about my ancestors. I know that ones memory is very fragile and facts once known can be easily forgotten. Therefore, I have tried to be as detailed as possible.

In tracing our genealogy, we quickly learn, as we go back a few generations, that our hereditary factors have come from a great many persons. The genes of literally hundreds of persons are gathered within us to make up the physical characteristics that are harbored within us. While genes themselves may be dominant or recessive, our custom follows the tradition of the family Name. We are proud of the good name of the family. Let us begin our research with the good family name of -- COATS!

You are probably aware that a great many people spell Coats with an "e" as Coates. As a boy I had asked Grandpa Henry Coats about this. He had told me that his father died when he was a baby and it was some years later when he learned to write. He said that he just spelled Coats the way it sounded! With this in mind, I had always believed that perhaps originally our name might have been Coates. My research though, has confirmed that my great-grandfather had spelled the name without an "e" and the name appears on official documents, some signed by my great-grandmother, without the "e". There were also other Coats families in the area of great-grandfather's home who are believed to be related and who also spelled their name without an "e". I am now convinced that if Grandpa spelled it that way by chance, his chance choice was correct!

The origin of the name is from Scotland. When spelled with an "e" there are indications that the origin is from England. Truman Coates, Oxford, Pa. (1906) in his book, "Genealogy of the Coates Family" says:

The name "Coates" is of ancient origin, and was written in earliest records as DeCote, a Norman name. The letter "a" occurs in the name as early as 1331, when in the 4th year of Edward III, William DeCoates was Lord of Cotes DeVille in Leistershire, England; and in 1347, the 20th year of Edward III, John DeCoates, with an "a", held lands here of Bishop of Lincoln, although the name was generally written Cotes, without the "a" until the 17th century.

The name in Scotland is Coats, omitting the "e" and may be from another source, yet many proper names, from their origin have been transformed into various forms of autography and not unlikely the different forms of spelling this name were derived from one common source.

As to the origin -- Lower, in his "Essay on English Surnames", gives Coates as one of the names taken from habiliments of the person. Guppy, in "Homes of Family Names" found Coateses in Buckinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Oxfordshire and Yorkshire. There is a Coates Castle in Sussex, England.

There are two suggestive derivations of the name Coats or Coates: 1. From the Anglo-Saxon "cot" (sometimes "cote"), a hut or chamber, from which we have cottage, cottar, sheepcote, dovecot. The word is sometimes spelt coat. Coat, a garment, is from the same root, which originally meant a covering. 2. From the Celtic "coed" or "coid", a wood.

There are two places in Scotland named Coats, besides Coatbridge and Coat-dyke (dyke is the Scotch word for wall).

England has three places named Coats, and two Coathams, ("ham" is the Anglo-Saxon word for dwelling, whence our own word "home").

From the localities of these various places, the first derivation is probably the correct one. Two or three cots (pronounced with a long "o", as in Coats), standing near one another, would come to be called "the Coats" and the name would as frequently was the case, be transferred to those who dwelt there. John of the Coats would become John of Coats, then, John Coats.

Another claim for this origin of the name is, Cotes, or "Over the Coasts". In 1668, one Thomas Coates was a member of Whicksley Meeting, Yorkshire, England.

There are traditions that the Coateses, who emigrated from Ireland to Pennsylvania were of Scotch extraction, and with other Scotch families were transplanted from Scotland to Ireland with Presbyterians and other reformers by Oliver Cromwell, after his wars when so many Roman Catholic families were destroyed. This would make a term Scotch-Irish Presbyterian." However this may be the most authentic authority we have been able to find, bears to the conclusion that the Coateses from Ireland were Originally from England, and will likely have to remain so unless more positive proof to the contrary.

The first person by the name of Coates on American soil, with whom we have positive knowledge, was Thomas Coates, emigrant from Sproxton, Leicestershire, England, in 1682 or 83. He was born Sept. 26, 1659, son of Henry and Elizabeth Coates of old Leicestershire and Derby families and were members of the Episcopal Church. Thomas became a successful merchant in Philadelphia, and owned several lots at the corner of Second and Market streets, where he resided. ----"

Truman Coates also quotes Prof. George B. Carr, D.D., of Lincoln University, Pa.

"Coats is a well-known name in Scotland and beyond it, through a family which has long been connected by residence, business and generous deeds for the public good with the manufacturing town of Paisley, about seven miles from Glasgow."

Published records of the family begin with James Coats, of Paisley, born Oct. 1, 1774, died Aug. 19, 1857. His fourth son was Thomas Coats, born Oct. 15, 1809, died Oct. 18, 1883. One of his children was Sir Thomas Glen-Glen Coats, Paisley, J.P., (in the United Kingdom, an unpaid local magistrate) and D. L. (Deputy Lieutenant of the County, appointed by the Government as an honor). Sir Thomas was created a Baronet in 1894. His crest is a stag's head and an anchor, with the motto, "Be Firm".

Mabel Louise Keech, writing in HOBBIES magazine, Oct., 1951, shows a drawing of the Coats Coat-of-Arms and the description: "He beareth for Arms: Argent a stag's erased gules between the horns a pheop azure all between three coots proper. Crest -- An anchor proper, Motto -- "Be Firm".

"The above description of the Coates Armorial Bearing is registered in Burke's General Armory and Fairbairns' Book of Crests, both foremost authorities on British Coats-of Arms. The register is for Scotland and in particular, Glasgow, the name also spelled Coats and Cotes. Families removing from Scotland, settling in the north of Ireland and

then coming to Pennsylvania have been found eligible to this Coat-of-Arms and no doubt those settling in other sections also.

"Translated into non-Heraldic terms: A silver (argent) shield in the center of which is charged a red (gules) stag's head as violently torn from the body (erased). Between the horns (attired) is a blue (azure) spearhead, or pheon. The stag's head lies between three coots or water-birds of natural color (proper). The crest is an anchor also of natural color.." Ms. Keech goes on then to explain the meaning of the various symbols. She also explains the early Scottish and/or English origins and some of the early Coateses. She also mentions "Coatesville (Pa.) about 40 miles west of Philadelphia is a thriving industrial city, surrounded by beautiful scenery."

The Coats name was given geographical importance by Captain William H. Coats. Captain Coats had been the master of a whaling vessel for some years but then joined the service of the King. He made several voyages of exploration into Hudson's Bay between 1727 and 1751. In honor of his exploration, his name was given to COATS ISLAND in Hudson's Bay.

The only record of Captain Coats' voyages is an account of his last voyage when he commanded the ship, "King George" in 1751. In the account, Capt. Coats comments that on two occasions his ship was sunk. Once in "1727 near the meridian of Cape Farwell when running through the ice with a small sail when two pieces of ice shutt upon us, and sunk our ship; and in 1736, being entangled in ice six leagues within Cape Resolution, when the ice shutt upon us, by the tides (for it was dead calm) and crushed our sides in, and sunk her in twenty minutes".

The manuscript was published by the Hakluyt Society of England and received by our Hoyt Library in 1889. Captain Coats addresses some remarks that this account has "been drawn up for the use of his sons". The Hakluyt Society was unable to trace the identity of his sons nor their descendants.

When I named my son, William H. Coats; I was unaware of Capt. Coats' voyages. William H. Coats was also the first cashier of the Second National Bank of Saginaw. He married Alice Little, daughter of Col. W. L. P. Little, one of Saginaw's early pioneers and founders. Later in her life, Alice Coats went to live in the family home in North Stonington, Conn. The history of Stonington, Conn. has a few Coats families living their.

Possibly the most well known Coats is the Coats & Clark, Inc., thread company. That company began in 1826 when James

Coats (1774-1857) of Paisley, Scotland began a thread business. In 1830 this business was passed on to two of his nine sons, James and Peter. Later, a third son Thomas was admitted to the business. When James died in 1845, Thomas and Peter carried on the business. In the late 1830's another son, Andrew, came to the U.S. and engaged three companies to sell their thread. In 1867 they constructed a thread mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. In 1913 the name was changed to the J & P Coats, Inc. In 1952 the Coats thread company merged with the Clark Thread Company and today is known as Coats & Clark. I could establish to genealogical connection between this family and ourselves.

The earliest record that I have of our Coats family is the listing of Leonard Coats, my great-grandfather, in the 1850 census in Bath, Steuben County, New York. He was age 30, married to Nancy W. Coats, daughter of Allen Butler. Leonard's place of birth was given as "New York". Living with them was Charles Miller, age 23. The next listing in the census was that of Oliver and Eliza Miller. Perhaps Charles was related to them but it is unknown what, if any connection he had with Leonard and Nancy Coats.

Leonard and Nancy had a daughter. She was born July 4, 1850 in Bath - apparently after the census was taken. Our family had referred to her as "Delphine" but Deborah (Hadden) Coats' bible lists her as "Mary Delphine". Nancy died about the time of Delphine's birth or shortly after. I have been unable to find the date of her death nor the place of her burial.

Leonard Coats then married Deborah Ann Hadden. The marriage was performed by Rev. B. R. Swick on March 25, 1851 at Bath, N.Y. and was witnessed by Robert Lyon and Ann Eliza Hadden.

Deborah Ann Hadden came from a long line of early American colonists. Her ancestors had been here in the mid-17th century. Her great-grandfather and others of his family fought in the Revolutionary War. Let's look at Deborah's family.

Deborah Ann was the twin-sister of Ann Eliza. They were born Nov. 25, 1825 in Aurelious, Cayuga County, N.Y. They were the daughters of Absalom and Rebecca (Pinkney) Hadden. Absalom Hadden was born Jan. 2, 1797. He married Rebecca Pinkney on March 10, 1821. He died March 19, 1884 and is buried in the Brundage Cemetery, located on Hatchery Road off Highway 54. It is about 1⅛ miles north of Bath and west one mile.

Rebecca Pinkney was born Dec. 14, 1797, the daughter of John Pinkney, born July 17, 1777 and Ann Pinkney, born Jan. 11, 1775. The children of Absalom and Rebecca (Deborah's brothers and sisters) were:

1. Sylvester, born March 31, 1822, died while young
2. Gilbert, born Dec. 21, 1823, married Hettie Brown. Their children were:
   a. Ann, married a Sanderson, had two children
   b. John, married a Cross, had three children
   c. Jacob, married Neal
   d. Lulu, married John Lounsberry
3 & 4. The twins, Deborah Ann and Ann Eliza. Ann Eliza married a Mr. Watkins
5. William, born March 5, 1828, died while young.
6. Absalom, Jr., born Feb. 12, 1835, He first married Hannah Osborne and they had one son, Robert Hadden. His second wife was Mate Osborne (sisters?) Absalom, Jr. was a lawyer
7. Rebecca Hadden, born May 11, 1832. She married the Rev. Wesley Brown, a Methodist minister, on Nov. 12, 1853 in Prattsburgh, N.Y. The marriage was performed by Rev. Jackson Brown.

Rebecca (Pinkney) Hadden died. One report was that she died in 1833 in Cameron, N.Y. but it was more likely much later than that - possibly 1843. Absalom then remarried to Anna Marie (Dykman) Goff, the widow of William Goff, on Dec. 21, 1845. Anna Marie had a son by her first marriage, William Goff, born about 1839.

8. Mary Elizabeth Hadden, born Oct. 23, 1846, married to Phylander Burton, Jr. They had no children.
9. James Hadden, born Feb. 25, 1849, married Eliza Sillman. Their children were:
   a. James Monroe Hadden, born Oct. 15, 1871, married Eva Major
   b. Elizabeth, born July 31, 1873, married Sherman Smith. They had a son, Leon Smith, married Onnilee, and live in Bath, N.Y.
10. Rosa L. Hadden, born 1851
11. Emily Hadden, born 1855

Rather than try to trace this fine old family backwards to the colonial period, let me start at the oldest record. This research has been documented by J. Elwood

Arnold, by Ray and Betty Hadden of Ridgeway, Ont., and by Leon and Onnilee Smith of Bath, N.Y. with additions by many others.

The earliest Hadden recorded here is John Hadden, who married Jane Nichols on Feb. 16, 1622, in London, England. Notice that this was just 15 months after the Pilgrims had landed at Plymouth. John and Jane apparently never did come to America but they did own property in New Jersey. Their granddaughter, Elizabeth, came to New Jersey and built a house near Haddonfield.

John and Jane Hadden had a son, John Hadden, Jr., born in the 1620s (exact date unknown). He married Elizabeth (last name unknown). John and Elizabeth Hadden lived near the saw mill in Westchester, Westchester County, N.Y. J. Elwood Arnold reports that there are numerous references to them in the Westchester County records of deeds and wills.

John and Elizabeth Hadden had the following children:

1. Elizabeth, married William Smith. Both were dead by 1686. In 1686, John Hadden, with the consent of his daughter, Elizabeth, bound her two sons, William and Thomas, for trades of weaver for from five to ten years. William and Elizabeth Smith also had several other children.
2. John Hadden, III, born 1653, married Abigal_____ in 1679, died in 1747. John and Abigal died within a few hours of each other, having lived together for 70 years. He was 96 and she was 90 years old. Their children were:
   a. John Hadden, IV, born about 1683-86
   b. Abigal Hadden, born 1685, married Samuel Vail He was born Dec. 21, 1687
   c. Samuel Hadden, born 1689
   d. Elizabeth Hadden, born 1691
   e. Thomas Hadden, born 1691-94, married Abigal Disbrow, died in 1761. They lived in Scarsdale, N.Y. Their children were:
      (1) Capt. John Hadden, born 1724, married Sarah Smith. 4-great grandfather. We'll take up his family later.
      (2) Joseph Hadden, married Esther _____
      (3) Abigal Hadden, married _____Tompkins

3. Sarah Hadden, married George Clevenger. She died 1691, he died 1688. They had one son, John Clevenger, who was living with John Hadden, II in 1698 as a servant (according to the census)
4. Edward Hadden, born 1664 (according to 1710 census) married first Hannah _____, second, Jan _____ (by 1705). Their children were: Edward, Hannah, Marcus, Mary, Patience, and Benjamin.
5. Thomas Hadden, married Margaret Gardiner (by 1711)

J. Thomas Scharf's "History of Westchester County, New York, page 747, includes a map of the Kings Bridge area and shows an area of land owned by John Hadden (See John and Elizabeth Hadden #2 page 7) which lies almost entirely within the City of New York, a very small corner projecting into Yonkers. The Hadden tract was traversed by the Old Albany Post Road, the New York City and Northern Railroad and Van Courtlandt Lake and Tippetts River.

Kings Bridge was a parcel of land of about 4,000 acres located in the northern side of the City of New York. Its northermost point was about 12 miles from White Plains and 15 miles from the City Hall of New York. The earliest white settler and owner was Dr. Adraien Van der Donck. He received a grant for the land in 1645 from the Dutch director Kieft.

Scharf states "John Hadden (in early records and sometimes written Heddy, Hedger, etc.) made the next purchase (the second) from Elias Dought, a brother of Mrs. Dr. Van der Donck. His deed of June 7, 1668 antedates that of William Betts and George Tippett, but bounds on land already sold to them. It conveys three parcels aggregating three hundred and twenty acres, lying directly north of Van der Doncks planting field and extending across from the Albany Post road to the road to Mile Square. For 200 acres Hadden gave a horse and for the remainder, five pounds. In December, 1668, Betts sold to Hadden 24 acres adjoinging his "house in the old field". The Van Cortlandt estate now includes the whole of it.

"Mr. Hadden was a carpenter by trade. He settled in the Yonkers with his sons-in-law, George Clevinger and William Smith, and in 1672 he was made overseer of the village of Fordham. His sons-in-law dying a few years later, Mr. Hadden sold out and returned to Westchester, where he and his descendants were respected citizens."

A map in the same History shows the property still listed to "John Heddy" in 1785.

And now back to Capt. John and Sarah Hadden. He is the fifth generation of Haddens to be listed and the fourth generation in this country.

Although I have listed the wife of John Hadden (above) as Sarah, the Hill-Pinckney Book page 100, lists her as "Ann". The book has a biography of Abraham Smith.

"Abraham Smith was an Englishman who settled on Long Island. About 1741 he removed to that part of Phillips Precinct, Dutchess County, N.Y. now known as Putnam Valley, Putnam County. He was twice married. His will, dated April 7, 1764 recorded in Dutchess County, Liber A of Wills, page 46, names wife Margret, son Abraham, daughter, Bethiah Hill, wife of William Hill, Mary Griffin, Ann Hedden, Charity Farenton, Jemima Covert, and grandson Silvanus Covert. Joseph Lane and Margaret Smith, Widow, are named executors. Among the children of Ann (Smith) Hedden, was Abraham Smith Hedden, who was commissioned Feb. 27, 1779, as Captain in Colonel Samuel Drake's regiment Westchester County militia (see N.Y. in the Rev.). He had a son Gilbert, who married Deborah Bartow, and a daughter Sarah, who married Stephen Crane, Nov. 21, 1792."

Although there are several errors in the account, such as spelling Hadden as Hedden; Barton as Bartow; and listing Gilbert and Sarah Lane as children of Abraham Smith Hadden whereas they are brother and sister, it undoubtedly is the same family and gives some genealogy of the Smiths.

John and Sarah Hadden had the following children:

1. Lieut Moses Hadden, born about 1750
2. Sgt. Joseph Hadden, born about 1753, married Deborah Haight (she was born 1758)
3. Pvt. John Hadden, Jr.
4. Capt. Abraham Smith Hadden, born 1756, died by 1789. Abraham was a Captain at age 22, apparently was killed in the War. His father collected Rev. War pay as administrator in 1789.
5. Gilbert Hadden, born Nov. 10, 1764, married Deborah Barton on Nov. 10, 1788. They were married by the Rev. Silas Constant and the wedding was held at the home of Gilbert's parents. These are my 3-great grandparents.
6. Abigail Hadden, born Nov. 10, 1747, married Dec. 3, 1767-9 to Captain George Lane. They were married by Rev. Sacket, Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, N.Y. George Lane was born June 20, 1742, died Feb. 26, 1806 at Phillipstown, N.Y. Abigail died Jane. 6, 1839 at Yorktown, N.Y.
7. Tamer Hadden, born 1757 in North Castle, N.Y., died 1843 in New York City. Married Capt. Obidiah Palmer. He was born 1751 in North Castle, N.Y., died 1836 in New York City.

8. Anne Hadden, born Oct. 2, 1764-65, died Nov. 25, 1849. She married John Conklin Jan. 11, 1794. He was born Oct. 28, 1766, died Jan. 15, 1834
9. Phebe Hadden, married John Higby on May 20, 1787
10. Sarah Hadden, born Sept. 10, 1769, married to Stephen Crane Nov. 21, 1792. He was born Nov. 1, 1770, died Sept. 9, 1826. Their children were: George, Andrew, Ward, and Tamar (latter died July 13, 1799, age one year, five months)

John Hadden's Last Will and Testament, filed at Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, N.Y., reads:

"In the Name of God, Amen.
I, John Hadden of Phillipstown, County of Dutchess and State of New York, being weak in body but Sound memory (Blessed be God) do this day, January the twenty fourth in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred ninety and eight make and Establish this my last will and testament in the manner following (that is to say)
First I order my executors (hereinafter named) to sell as much of my lands as will pay all my lawful Debts and Pay the same. Again I give and bequeath unto my three sons, Moses Hadden, John Hadden and Guilbert Hadden to them and their heirs and assigns forever all the remainder of my lands and Tenements to be equally divided between them or their heirs by my Executors. Again I give to my son Joseph Hadden the sum of five shillings. Again I give and bequeath unto my five daughters, Namely Abigal Lane, Tamer Palmer, Anne Conklin, Phebe Higby and Sarah Crane all the
---------(Second sheet of the will is not here)
drawn January 24, 1798
Jan. 22, 1802 Witnesses appeared before Surrogate Gilbert Livingston
George Lane, one of the Executors also appeared."

Gilbert Hadden was too young to serve in the Revolutionary War as did his father and four brothers and brother-inplaw Capt. Lane and Capt. Palmer. The record is not entirely clear but apparently after his father's death (possibly in Jan., 1802) he borrowed money to buy the Hadden homestead in Westchester County. Records in the White Plains, Westchester County, N.Y., under wills, indicate that Gilbert bought the home farm from the heirs of John, his father. Gilbert apparently had no Will. TheSurrogate's Office, Westchester County, shows several loans for Gilbert from Augustus VanCortlandt, his sister Abigail Lane, his brother Moses, Moses's son Morris, John Conklin, his

brother-in-law and several others. Ray Hadden of Ridgeway, Ontario, in researching deeds and mortgages at White Plains, in October, 1970, found Gilbert had two sizeable notes with VanCourtlandt, unpaid at the time of his death. Some previous VanCourtlandt notes had been paid. Ray thought that Gilbert was engaged in the lumber business.

John Hadden of Edwardsburg, Mich. (1930-1966 research) recalled his folks relating that Gilbert had died suddenly from an injury sustained while cutting timber. A tree they were cutting had split and lodged in another tree. Gilbert went up the lodged tree to cut it loose. At the first stroke of the ax, the tree snapped loose, striking Gilbert in the stomach, the injury causing his death. Gilbert died about 1813 in Westchester County, N.Y. and is buried at Jefferson Valley, near Bedford, N.Y.

After Gilbert's untimely death, the farm home was sold to satisfy debts and Deborah, his widow, moved to the Auburn, N.Y. area to care for her family. George L. Hadden of West Palm Beach, Fla., recalled his Aunt Mary (Hadden) Harris and other relatives instituting legal action to recover the homestead since there appeared to be evidence of fraud. Because of the length of time since the act occurred, no recovery action could be taken. None of the Charles D. Haddens seem to know what happened to Deborah (Barton) Hadden, where she lived, married again, died, buried, etc.

I think that some of the interest in researching genealogy is demonstrated in the bible of Deborah (Barton) Hadden. The bible is in the possession of J. Elwood Arnold. He reports:

"The bible, which is in rather poor condition, measures 2½ inches wide by 4 5/8 inches long by 1 7/8 inches thick. It was in Aunt Martha Hadden's personal things. Uncle John Hadden thought that possibly the bible had been kept by Mary L. Hadden and after her death had been given to Martha. The fly-leaf of the bible is marked "Deborah Barton - her book". Above her name in large letters are "N L" with what might be a "J" over the two letters. The following is written on a page near the back of the bible - "1658 -- Salem -- John Langford - his book".

A Book published in 1829, entitled "Register of the First Settlers of New England" shows "John Langford, Salem, Freeman 1645, was living there in 1689". Were these John Langfords the same man - and were the Bartons related to John Langford? How did Deborah get the bible? Mysterious! Elwood notes that the penmanship is excellent. The Barton family names are shown in the front of the bible and the Hadden names are shown on the back pages.

The Hadden names are:

The Hadden names are:
Gilbert Hadden, born November ye 10 day, 1764
Samuel Hadden, Son of Gilbert, born August ye 27 Day 1784
George Hadden, Born March 17 on Thursday 1790
Youpheme Hadden, born December the 11, 1792
Moses Hadden was Born the 27 Day of October, 1794
Absalom Hadden was born January the 2 day in the year of our Lord 1797
Nancy Hadden was born on (not legible) Sunday August the Ninth day 1799
John W. Hadden Born November 19th 1801
Gilbert Hadden was born January 2nd 1804
Lewis Hadden was born June 2nd 1806
Betsy Hadden was born February 10th 1808
Charles Hadden was born January 31st 1811

From the front of the bible:
Deborah Barton born April 14th, 1765

The Barton names are:
Mr. Benjamin Barton Sr. born the 18th of May 1731
Mrs. Jan Barton, Born May 8th 1739
Bannahah Barton, Born November 26th, 1757
Roger Barton, born April 8th, 1759
Abigail Barton, born April 7th, 1761
Temima Barton, born April 6th, 1763 (not certain of spelligg of Temima)
Deborah Barton, born April 14, 1765
Asa Barton, born April 9th, 1768
Moses Barton, born November 13th, 1771
Sarah Barton, born February 16th, 1775
Benjamin Barton, born August 2nd, 1778
Elizabeth Barton, born June 18th, 17-- (part of year missing)
Ufama Barton, born March 19th 17-- (part of year missing)

Other names on the fly-leaves
William Fowler, born December the 18th, 1820
John Cummins, born November 2nd, 1827
Minerva Jane Cummins, born January 25, 1830

Thus, this would indicate that our forebears, the Bartons have been in this country a long time also. Indeed they have!

Fortunately, this family has been thoroughly documented. The Barton genealogy is recorded in a book entitled, "Roger Barton's Kinsmen" by Mrs. Margaret Alberta Barton McLean, of Magundy, York County, New Brunswick (1940); by extensive data now deposited in the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress by the late Adolph Law Vogg, and by a supplementary

article entitled "Roger Barton of Westchester County, N.Y. and Some of his Earlier Descendants" by George F. McCracken, of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. Prof. McCracken is the the publisher of "The American Genealcgist", 1323 39th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

Some of this research has contained some confusion between Rufus Barton who came to Manhattan (New Amsterdam) in 1642 and Rogert Barton who came to Long Island. J. Elwood Arnold sorts out the facts as follows:

"The first undoubted record of Roger Barton on this continent appears in the town records of Brookhaven, Long Island, N.Y., where on 23 Oct. 1662, Roger Barton was one of four men appointed to lay out the town.

"Roger Barton probably was born in England about 1628 as evidence by Westchester County, N.Y. records when he testified under oath that he was aged 60 or thereabouts (on 17 July, 1688, Westchester Deeds A-269).

"Roger Barton has been confused with a Barton who on 14 Aug. 1642, signed a lease with Rev. Everardus Bogardus for sixty-two acres of land. Through an error in indexing, the real tenant was Rufus Barton, not Roger Barton.

"Roger Barton, along with another person, was elected on 1 March, 1665-6 to represent Seatalcott or Brookhaven at a convention held at Hempstead at the call of Governor Richard Nicolls of New York when the East, West and North Ridings of New Yorkshire were established and the Dukes Laws were put into effect on 11 March 1665-6. Governor Nicolls had been commissioned by Charles II to quell the troubles in the Colonies. For reasons not now clear, Governor Nicolls issued orders in May, 1666 for the arrest and expulsion of Roger Barton and Robert Bloomer from Brookhaven. Both fled, presumably to Connecticut, leaving their families and possessions behind. Their property was soon sold by the constable and sheriff "to pay the charge of the commissioners". Roger returned to Westchester County at a later time as there are records of his owning property and living there. On 20 Nov., 1678, he purchased 102 acres from John Archer, first Lord of the Manor of Fordham, the land lying near Brunxes River, commonly called the Great Plain. It is to be noted that Governor Nicolls had asked to be relieved from his post and eventually left in August of 1688."

One researcher, Mrs. Richard Andrews of Hillsborough, CA, states that she has information from Mrs. Barton Wylie, Darien, Conn. who states that Roger Barton was born in 1628 at Knowlton Hall in Flint, Wales, U.K. Mrs. Wylie had a London genealogist working on the Barton family and that genealogist reported that Roger Barton was a descendant of royalty. The information did not seem reliable and won't be

repeated. However, the part of Roger being born at Knowlton Hall, County Flint, Wales is confirmed by Adolph Law Voge in his research and is considered reliable. One of his references is from the book, "The Descendants of Solomon Barton" - 1929, page 41.

Roger Barton (the original immigrant) married Mary Lounsberry. Their son, Roger, Jr. was born in 1666, married Bridget Palmer in Westchester, N.Y. Roger, Jr. died in 1714.

The son of Roger, Jr. and Bridget Barton was Elisha Barton, born in 1697. He married Mary Disbrown in Westchester County, N.Y.

The son of Elisha and Mary Barton was Benjamin Barton, born May 18, 1731. He married Jane Dusenberry at Eastchester, N.Y. in 1755. Their daughter was Deborah Barton, who married Gilbert Hadden.

Deborah (Barton) Hadden's mother also descended from a family that had been in this country for some time. I have written her name as Jane Dusenberry but the spelling has apparently been changed from Dusenbury over the years.

The original Dusenbury recorded is also spelled slightly different. He was Hendrich Henricks Van Dosenburg. He was born in Doesborg in Gelderland. (Possibly this is "fatherland" in Dutch?) Possibly also his name came from the name of the town wherein he was born - Doesborg? Anyway, he came to New Amsterdam with his parents about 1640. He married on June 12, 1655 to Maritjin Hendricks who had been born in Harlem.

Their fifth child was Johannes Dusenbury, born in New York and baptized Oct. 15, 1666. He married Mary _____ and they lived in Hempstead.

Their son, John was born in Hempstead about 1690 and married Elizabeth Mudge, daughter of Moses Mudge. They lived in Hempstead.

Their seventh child was Jane Dusenbury (Dusenberry), born May 8, 1738, married to Benjamin Barton in 1755 and died in 1815.

The above Dusenbury-Dusenberry Genealogy is contained in the Grenville Mackenzies Records on file at the Westchester Historical Society at Tuckahoe, N.Y.

Gilbert and Deborah (Barton) Hadden had the following children:

1. Samuel Hadden, born Aug. 27, 1789, Westchester Co., married Sylvia (Wixon?)
2. George Hadden, born March 17, 1790, Westchester Co., George married and went to Illinois.
3. Youpheme (or Euphemia) Hadden, born Dec. 11, 1792, Westchester Co., marr. 1st. William Fowler;; 2nd, _____Odell; 3rd PhylanderBurton.

4. Moses Hadden, born Oct. 27, 1794, Westchester Co., married Margaret Champanois (poss. other spelling)
5. Absalom Hadden, born Jan. 2, 1797, Westchester Co., married 1st Rebecca Pinkney; 2nd Anna Marie Dykman
6. Nancy Hadden, born Aug. 9, 1799, Westchester Co. married Reed Manroe
7. John Wilson Hadden, born Nov. 19, 1801, Westchester Co., married Lydia Manrow
8. Gilbert Hadden, Jr., born Jan. 2, 1804, Westchester Co.,,married Mary Jane Dusenbury
9. Lewis W. Hadden, born June 2, 1806, Westchester Co. married Joan Gould
10. Betsy Hadden, born Feb. 10, 1808, Westchester Co., married George Cummings
11. Charles Dusenberry Hadden, born Jan. 31, 1811, Westchester Co., married Nancy Blythe

So, we have traced the Hadden and Barton families from London, England and Flint, Wales in the middle 1600s down to Absalom and Rebecca (Pinkney) Hadden and to their daughter, Deborah Ann Hadden.

In the 1850 census that first recorded Leonard Coats, Deborah Ann Hadden was listed as living with Moses H. and Sarah Lyons. Her twin sister, Ann Eliza was living with Caleb and Abigail Hendy. This would suggest that after their mother's death the girls were doing outside housework.

Leonard and Deborah Ann Coats had their first son, George L. Coats, born Feb. 14, 1852 in Bath, N.Y.

During the summer of 1853, Leonard and Deborah Ann left Bath, N.Y. with their son, George and Leonard's daughter, Mary Delphine, for the state of Michigan. Dad remembers his father telling him that there were a lot of wagons traveling together. Aunt Eleanor (Coats) Koehler remembers her grandmother telling her that she had been pregnant for her second child, Henry A., while on the trip. The wagon train came to the village of Essex in Essex Township, Clinton County, Mich. To locate Essex from St. Johns, Mich., go four miles north, 2½ miles west, ½ mile north, one mile west. It is located exactly in the center of Section 23 of Essex Township.

You might wonder as I did, how they happened to come to this location? I imagine that there were other persons here who came from the same New York area. Clinton County has a township named Bath. Essex is named after Essex County in New York. Deborah Ann had been living with a Lyons family in Bath. It is believed that there were several Lyons families already in this area. There is a Lyons Mills just south of the village of Essex.

On Oct. 13, 1853, Leonard Coats purchased forty acres of land. He paid $300.00. The land was located in the SW¼ of the NE¼ of Section 26, Essex Township. To find the property, go south from Essex village intersection and it is from 3/4 to one mile south on the left (east) side of the road. There is a "T" intersection one mile south of Essex and his 40 acres would be on the NE of that intersection. Leonard signed a mortgage for $100.00 on the property. The legal transaction was witnessed by John Gleason and Israel Coats. I'll mention Israel later.

Leonard and Deborah's second son, Henry Absalom Coats was born on Nov. 3, 1853, in Essex. This was only three weeks after Leonard had purchased his land. I hope that they had been able to get settled in their new home by this time -- if there was a house on the property.

At the time Leonard and Deborah left Bath, N.Y., it was known that Leonard was suffering from "consumption" -- probably what we now call tuberculosis. We may wonder if this was part of the reason for going west -- to get some of the good fresh air of a new country. At any rate, his condition worsened and he finally died. The date of his death is recorded in Deborah Coats' bible as Sept. 13, 1854. I have also seen a date listed as Oct. 3, 1854 but I would tend to believe the former date.

On Sept. 9, 1854, just four days before Leonard's death, there is a property transaction recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, St. Johns, Clinton County. While it is not completely clear, it appears to be making the title to the 40 acres joint tenant with Debora Ann. Leonard signed the paper with an "X". I wondered if he was illiterate or more likely just so feeble that he could not sign his name. Perhaps Leonard's death seemed so imminent that they were making all legal preparations necessary. The transaction was witnessed by M. Greenwood and Barzillai Coats. We'll see more of Barzillai Coats shortly.

I would assume that Leonard Coats was buried in the Essex village cemetery. It is located about ¼ mile west of the village. However, there is no tombstone and the sextant has no record of the burial.

Before Leonard and Deborah had left Bath, as I mentioned, it was known that he was suffering from consumption. Possibly since it was known that this disease was often fatal, Nancy Coats' parents, Allen Butler, had asked Deborah that, if anything happened to Leonard, if she would send Delphine home to live with them. So, after Leonard's death, some

arrangements were made to return Delphine to Bath, N.Y. Delphine's uncle, Allen Butler, Jr. came to Essex to escort her home as she was only four years old. I'm not sure when the railroad was built in St. Johns but I don't believe that it had been built at this date.

After Delphine arrived home, the Butlers wrote to Deborah Coats, notifying her of Delphine's safe arrival. That letter has been preserved and I have it framed. It reads:

Bath, Dec. the 16th 1854
Dear friend, it
is with pleasure that I take this oportunity to inform you that I am well and hopeing thease few lines will find you enjoying this Same blessing your friends here are all well as far as I can lern. I arived home on Saturday evening found my folks well. Delphine was but a vary little trouble on the road and is vary well contented She often talks about her mother and her little brothers and writes to them most every day the boxes has not come but I think I shal get it soon as I have writen for it I have not seen Mrses Brundage but I sent the letter to her by her son and told him about your circumstances of which he spoke vary favourable I have not seen Balis yet he went east to visit his friends as I understood on Monday morning visit after I arrived home Charles Miller is married to Cyntha Grant Mary sends her love to you and says she should be vary happy to see you give my best respects to my friends and acquaintance and Beleav me your affectionate Friend and Brother

A. Butler, Jr.

Pleas answer Soon

I don't know who Mrs. Brundage is. There are several Brundage families listed in the census but I know of no family connection. Charles Miller is probably the Charles Miller who was living with Leonard Coats when the 1850 census was taken.

The reference to "Mary" might be referring to Mary Delphine but is probably referring to Mary Elizabeth Hadden, Deborah Ann's half-sister. Mary Elizabeth would be eight years old at this time. It may have been because of her that Mary Delphine was called by her middle name to avoid confusing her with Mary Elizabeth.

In the 1860 census of Bath, Steuben County, New York we find Allen Butler, Jr. and Mary Ann Butler listed with "M. D. Butler, age 10, F" living with them. This undoubtedly is referring th Mary Delphine. Next door to them is Allen Butler, Sr. and Lea Butler, ages 75 and 70. The census listing indicates that Mary Delphine may have been adopted by her uncle Allen or she was just "going by that name".

The death of Mary Delphine Coats is listed in Deborah Coats' bible as Nov. 1870, Bath, N.Y. She would have been twenty years old at her death.

Deborah Ann Coats sold her forty acres of land on Jan. 29, 1855. She received $300.00 except for the $100.00 mortgage. The transaction was witnessed by Norman Carrier and Obadiah Lyon. We'll hear more later of Obadiah Lyon.

Then, on June 24, 1855, Deborah Ann Coats remarried to Moses C. Nestell. Moses Nestell owned forty acfes of land situated 1½ miles west, ¼ mile south and ¼ mile west of the village of Essex.

Henry A. Coats (my grandfather) always had said that Moses Nestell was willing to take care of the older boy, George, but refused to provide care for Henry. So, Deborah Ann made arrangements with Obadiah Lyon to care for Henry.

I don't know if Obadiah Lyon was related to the Moses Lyons that Deborah lived with in Bath (in 1850) but it seems that there is a good liklihood of that connection. Obadiah Lyon was the Justice of the Peace that performed the wedding ceremony when Deborah Ann married Moses Nestell. Obadiah Lyon owned eighty acres of land directly across the road from the forty acres that had been owned by Leonard Coats. Presumbably they were good friends of Deborah Ann and Leonard. I say all this because Henry Coats had said many times how unhappy he was while staying with Obadiah Lyons.

The account of how Henry Coats left Obadiah Lyons has been told to me by my Dad, and Aunt Eleanor Koehler and, from my own dim recollections, by Henry Coats.

After some years of being discontented with the Lyons, Henry talked with a neighbor one day, complaining of his situation. The neighbor asked him why he didn't leave if he didn't like it. Henry replied that he wasn't allowed to leave. "Why you can leave whenever you want" the neighbor replied, "He doesn't have 'papers' on you!" The papers referred to were probably guardianship papers or apprenticeship papers.

After mulling this for some time, Henry decided to leave. He left during the night, carrying a pair of boots and tip-toeing out of the house. I gathered that there was some twinge of conscience about the boots but he needed them for travel. He put on the boots outside the house and left.

He presumably spent the rest of the night in a haystack or something similar. The next day he set off down the road. After traveling for some distance, he saw a farmer and some laborers in a field cutting hay. He went over to the fence and called out to the farmer. When the farmer came over to the fence, Henry asked him if he needed to hire a man. The farmer, with tongue-in-cheek and a hidden grin, replied, "Why sure, I've lots of work to be done and I need a hired man. Do you know where I can find a man?" Henry's age is unknown at this time but he was very much a boy. He pulled himself up to his tallest stature and announced that he was a man and that he was looking for work.

The farmer took Henry Coats into his home and gave him a place to live. No mention is made of a job or pay but presumably Henry did sufficient work to pay for his room and board and possibly some money besides. The farmer was Nathan Lowe.

It was shortly thereafter (possibly the next day or so) that Obadiah Lyon had heard of Henry's location and Henry heard that Obadiah Lyon was coming after him. Henry ran to Nathan Lowe and Nathan took him into the house. Shortly, Obadiah appeared at the door and demanded that Nathan release Henry to him. Nathan refused to permit Obadiah to enter the house and refused to surrender Henry to him. Obadiah threatened to get the Sheriff if Nathan continued to refuse but Nathan was steadfast in his determination not to surrender Henry. Evenually Obadiah left.

Some time later, Obadiah reappeared with the Sheriff. Again, Henry was taken into the house before their arrival. Nathan Lowe discussed the matter with the Sheriff and after some time, the Sheriff and Obadiah left and that was the end of it. Henry remained with Nathan Lowe.

Nathan Lowe and his wife Sarah were good and kind to Henry. He lived with them for several years and remained their friend all of their life. One of their sons, Charlie, who was three years younger than Henry, was especially close to Henry and they remained friends all of their life, although they saw little of each other in later years. Nathan and Sarah apparently were good church members and substantial contributors to the Methodist church in Essex as that church is named the Lowe Methodist Church. They were people of more means than either Lyon or Nestell as the Lowe's had 240 acres of land whereas Lyon had 80 acres and Nestell had only 40 acres.

Well, that's the story of Henry Coats' younger years as I knew it most of my life. In checking records, I found a few differences. First, the man telling Henry that Obadiah Lyon had no 'papers' on him was apparently in error. The records of the Probate Court in Clinton County show that on Aug. 24, 1868 Henry Coats petitioned the Probate Court to appoint Obadiah Lyon as his guardian. Henry states "that he is fourteen years of age, that his father is dead, that his mother has remarried since the decease of my father, that I have not for a number of years lived with and made my home with my mother and that --- I desire a guardian and nominate Mr. Obadiah Lyon of Essex as my guardian". We may imagine that this was done at his mother's direction but was done nevertheless. Obadiah Lyon meanwhile agreed to "maintain Henry Coats until he is nineteen years and send him to school two terms of one quarter each in the winter of 1868 and 1869 and the one next thereafter" and "Henry Coats agrees -- to live with -- the said Obadiah Lyon and render to him the same obedience that is due a father from a son until he arrives at the age of nineteen years". The Probate Court then appointed Lyon as Henry's guardian.

In the court order of appointment there is the mention of real estate - "that he shall dispose of any real estate and effects - for the best interest of the said Ward" and "that he shall render an account of each of the property in his hands including the proceeds of all the real estate which may be sold by him". This seems to suggest that perhaps Henry had received some inheritance which was held in trust for him.

The next Probate Court record shows that on Aug. 13, 1870, Henry Coats petitioned the Probate Court to remove Obadiah Lyon as his guardian and to appoint Nathan R. Lowe to be his guardian. The court so ordered. This was probably the result of the above related confrontation between Obadiah Lyon and Nathan Lowe.

There is one interesting tale that I should relate to you. I have often heard Henry Coats tell this story. It apparently took place while he was living with Obadiah Lyon and in those years before he was officially placed in guardianship. I say this because Henry says that he was referred to as a "took kid". This means that he was not one of their children nor related nor adopted but just "took" in to care for unofficially. This was at the time that medical science had just discovered vaccination and many of the people in the area were being vaccinated. Lyon had his own child (I only have record of Emma) but would not bother with Henry as he didn't belong to him. Several other children in the area also were vaccinated. The next day the children were playing and comparing their vaccinations. They decided, as children do, to play doctor. One of the children was to be the doctor and Henry was to be the patient. They decided to vaccinate him as the doctor had done to them. So, they rolled up his sleeve and scratched his arm with a pin. Not having any of the 'medicine' that the doctor had put on them, the 'doctor' took the pin and removed some of the pus from one of the childrens arm and put it on Henry's ar and scratched it in.

Several days later, Henry's arm began to be sore. He told Mr. Lyon about it. Lyon, possibly from compassion or possibly from alarm, took Henry to the doctor. After Henry explained to the doctor what they had done and the doctor examined the arm, the doctor announced that the children had performed a successful vaccination and that it was 'working' and showed it to be successful.

During my research of Essex township I discovered that Nathan Lowe's farm was not very far from that of Obadiah Lyon's farm. I had understood that Henry had gone some distance when he ran away from Lyon's home. The records show that Lyon lived between ½ and one mile south of Essex and Nathan Lowe lived about 1/3 mile east of Essex so that they were only about 3/4 mile apart.

Another surprising discoverey was that an 1860 taxpayer in Essex was Francis A. Coats. I had never heard that Henry Coats had relatives in the area. He is listed in the "History of Clinton County" in the chapter on Essex. The property of Francis Coats was in Section 23, the same as Nathan Lowe and, I have learned, was approximately across the road from Nathan Lowe. I was more than surprised when I researched the 1850 census records of Steuben County, N.Y. and found that Francis A. Coats was in Avoca, N.Y., not far from Bath, where Leonard Coats lived. This seemed much more than a coincidence - that two persons of a fairly uncommon name should come from the same area and go to the same village at about the same time. It seems that they must surely have been related.

It was about this time that Virginia (my wife) found some notes in our attic that I had written when I was a teen-ager. I had questioned Henry Coats about his ancestors and had written some names on a piece of paper. Fortunately, the piece of paper has been preserved but unfortunately, I can't remember nor understand the full relattionships.

The note has the name David Henry Coats (with an asterisk) and the comment (Came to Lowell); underneath, Dewey Coats (son); under that Lenord Coats (also with an asterisk) and Debery Hadden close to his name. Under those names are listed - Israel Coats (uncle); Brazil; Frank; Balis; Henry Coats; George Coats; Delphine Coats (½ sister) (Mother Butler). There is a curved line from Israel Coats (uncle) leading back up to David Henry Coats (Came to Lowell).

Those notes are very largely responsible for my writing this genealogical account. I have learned what a fragile thing one's memory is! Things that we know so well today are soon forgotten! I decided that I must put all of my collected information in an understandable form so that it may not all be lost again.

Since learning of Francis A. Coats I have also discovered that Barzillai Coats also lived in Essex township and had 240 acres of land approximately across the road from Nathan Lowe. Another Coats who came from Steuben Co., N.Y. to Essex was Israel B. Coats. He later moved to Ithaca. I think a brief biography of each of these would be in order pending the time when their relationship to Leonard Coats can be defined.

Francis A. Coats was born March 17, 1818 in Tompkins Co., N.Y. In 1850 he is living in Avoca, Steuben Co., N.Y. with his father Israel Coats, age 58 (born in New Jersey); Israel B. Coats, age 25, born in Avoca, Chemung; Conrad Cratsenburgh, age 35; Mary Ann Cratsenburgh, age 27, (possibly son-in-law and daughter); Phillip Cratsenburgh, age 10.

In 1855 Francis is living in Wheeler, N.Y. married to Mary C. (Harris) Coats, age 28. Israel B. Coats is living with them. There is the notation "all of above here 8 months".

Sometime between the summer of 1855 and June, 1856, Francis and Mary Coats came to Essex. Mary died here on June 16, 1856 and is buried in the Sowle Cemetery, Essex township.

Francis remarried on Nov. 14, 1858 to Betsey Post. She had been previously married and had three children: Andrew, Mary, and Emma. Francis and Betsey had a daughter, Alice, born in the fall of 1859.

The Archives show that Francis Coats enlisted in the Army on Nov. 25, 1861. He was then 43 years old, had black eyes, dark hair, light compexion, 5'8" tall. On Nov. 10, 1862, he was court-martialed for "mutinous conduct" and sent to the guardhouse. In Feb., 1863 he was sent to the hospital for injuries to his eyes while standing guard duty. He was discharged Dec. 6, 1864.

At some time, Francis and Betsey apparently moved to Gratiot County in the Edgewood area as he is buried there. He died Nov. 21, 1896 and is buried in the Hamilton Cemetery, near Edgewood. There is a tombstone next to his with the name "Betsey E. Coats - born July 10, 1823" but no death date. Her pension application, made June 16, 1900 shows that she was living at 1200 Ames St., Saginaw.

The biography of Barzillai Coats is somewhat more incomplete. He was born in 1821 or 1821 in Tompkins County, N.Y. (same as Francis A. Coats). In 1849 he lived in Avoca, Steuben Co., N.Y. On Dec. 3, 1852, he and his wife, Elizabeth purchased property in Wheeler, Steuben Co. from Israel B. Coats of Avoca. Sometime between 1851 and 1854 Barzillai, Elizabeth and their oldest child, Marian E. Coats (born 1851) came to Essex. They had two other children here, Romeo G., born 1854 and Lilian V., born 1857. Barzillai is listed on the tax rolls here in 1854. When Deborah Coats sold her 40 acres on Jan. 29, 1855, Barzillai was a witness to the transaction. Apparently he was helping and counseling Leonard's widow, Deborah.

On March 30, 1864, Barzillai enlisted in the Army. He was 43 years old, a farmer, described: grey eyes, black hair, dark complexion, 5'9" tall. He saw action at Cold Harbor and was wounded by a cannon ball on May 8, 1864. He was taken to McClellan Military Hospital in Philadelphia where his little toe was amputated. He became infected with typhoid fever while in the hospital and died. On date given is June 18, 1864 and the other date is July 20, 1864. Probably the latter is correct as it states he was buried July 22, 1864 in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Philadelphia, Soldiers Rest Grave 73.

Elizabeth Coats was living in Essex at the time of his death. Nothing further is known of her.

Israel B. Coats, the brother of Francis A. Coats, has already been mentioned in the 1850 and 1855 census. Sometime between 1855 and 1858 he came to Michigan. The "History of Gratiot County", page 126, shows that he was elected as the county's second Prosecuting Attorney in November, 1858. He was re-elected in 1860.

Israel B. Coats married Charlotte Taylor on Jan. 7, 1861. He lived in Ithaca and she lived in Essex. He was 30 years old and she was 22 years. However, his married life was short-lived -- he died on Sept. 7, 1861. His tombstone gives his age as 31 yrs, 5 mon, 11 days. That would make his birthdate March 27, 1830. Next to his tombstone is another with the name Iva B. Coats, died Jan. 12, 1876, age 13 yrs, 8 mon. That would make her birthdate May 12, 1862. That would mean that Israel's wife was pregnant at the time of his death and their daughter was born without ever seeing her father! Apparently, Charlotte remarried to H. H. Colby as the tombstone is marked "Daughter of Mrs. H. H. Colby".

The Archives also have a record of Francis M. Coats. He was born in Bath, Steuben County, N.Y. in 1844, the son of Moses A. Coats and Adaline Coats. When he was 18 years old and living in Lowell, Kent County, Mich. he volunteered for the Army. He had been living with his widowed mother. He was mustered into Co. I, 26th Mich. Infantry on Sept. 15, 1862. While on fatigue duty at Gains Hills (Cold Harbor), Virginia, he was killed by a rebel sharpshooter on June 7, 1864. This was the same location and about the same time that Barzillai Coats was wounded and later died.

So, when I wondered why Henry Coats had not gone to live with some of his relatives in 1870, when Nathan Lowe was appointed guardian, the above may explain why. Both Israel and Barzellai were dead. Francis had returned from the Civil War and was apparently living somewhere near Edgewood in Gratiot County. There may have been other relatives near Lowell but none that he was apparantly close to.

On March 2, 1871, Nathan Lowe petitioned the Probate Court of Clinton County to be released from further care and management of Henry Coats. Henry Coats also signed his consent to this petition and the court so granted his release.

On March 26, 1871, Henry Coats came to Saginaw. It is unknown why he came here. He had no family nor any known friends here. Perhaps it was just the case of the 'small-town' boy wanting to "seek his fortune" in the big city. And Saginaw was known then as a bustling, growing, boom town. The lumber industry was in its heyday and I suppose that there were lots of jobs to be had.

My Dad, Chester Coats, told me that his father had told him that when he (Henry) arrived in Saginaw when he was coming from St. Johns, that there was high water - it being the springtime. The train could not get into town to stop at the station. He had come on the rail line that runs east-west about a half-mile south of Gratiot Road and goes past Paines Station (south of Shields). He said the train had to stop on the west edge of the city near Wheeler Street. Henry got his suitcase and got off the train and walked the rest of the way. He went to the "Taylor House" at the corner of Court and Hamilton Sts. (later named the Fordney Hotel) and got a room for his first night in Saginaw.

Dad (Chester Coats) also said that his father had told him that that fall there was a big fire west of Saginaw. Thousands of acres of timber and timber slashings were burning. Henry had remembered that there had been magnificent, huge pine trees in the area that is now Shields. The trees were cut down leaving a very high stump (Dad said six to eight feet). There was only one log cut off the tree and tat one was up to the first branches. The whole rest of the tree above that was left to rot. After these slashings dried, they were as inflammable as gasoline. These burned - but Dad wasn't sure whether those at Shields burned in the big fire of 1871 or whether it was later.

I'm not sure of the exact sequence of jobs that Henry Coats had when he arrived in Saginaw, but I believe his first job was as a handy-man or chore boy for Alderman B. Paine. Paine was a wealthy lumberman who lived in a large house on the south-west corner of Cass and Michigan (Michigan Avenue was then called Washington Ave.). Henry's duties were to feed and care for the horses, shovel the walks, run errands, tend the stoves or fireplaces, etc. For this he received room and board and the permission to attend school. He enrolled himself in the John Moore School. I am not sure how much schooling that Henry had had. There was the mention of two years of school in the Probate Court order appointing Obadiah Lyon as his guardian. Since Henry Coats signed that petition - and his handwriting was reasonable - I would assume that he had received some learning shomewhere. At any rate, he wanted to continue his education and so he did.

Henry has often told one humorous incident while he attended school at John Moore. He had been absent for a day or two due to illness. When he returned to school, the teacher asked where he had been and why he was absent. When Henry told him that he had been sick the teacher told him that he would have to bring a note from his parents

explaining his absence. Henry told the teacher that he didn't have any parents. The teacher then said that he should get a note from his guardian. When Henry said that he didn't have any guardian, the exasperated teacher said that he would have to bring a note from the person who was sending him to school! The miffed Henry returned to his desk and carefully penned a note which said, "Please excuse Henry for being absent because he was sick and could not come to school". Henry then took the note up to the teacher. The teacher read the note and then commented that it looked like Henry's handwriting. "Oh, it is", Henry replied, "You said I should have a note from the person who is sending me to school and that's me! I'm sending myself to school and so I wrote the note as you asked".

Apparently Henry Coats completed very little formal education. However, I am aware that he availed himself of the Butman-Fish library and read and studied considerably. He had a creditable personal library and was well-informed on current events.

His stay at Paines was just for the one winter while he went to school.

Aunt Eleanor (Coats) Koehler related that his first job on arrival in Saginaw was in Simpsons Grocery. This was a grocery located on the south-west corner of Michigan and Gratiot (later Stroebel Brothers were located there and later a gas station and now a bicycle shop). She says that Henry had money from the sale of 40 acres of land that he had owned at St. Johns. This might possibly be from the sale of the 40 acres that Leonard Coats had owned and had been held in trust for Henry, or possibly some other land that Henry had received in payment for wages. Anyway, she says that he had money from the sale of the land and Simpson offered to sell him a partnership in the grocery store. Unknown to Henry, the store was deeply in debt and shortly after Henry purchased his partnership, the creditors closed in and the store was declared bankrupt. Henry said that he had trusted Simpson completely as the man was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge (as I believe Henry was) and Henry believed that one Lodge brother would never cheat another brother member. Ah, the price of experience! While he worked in the store, Henry lived in a room over the store. He says that all he got out of his experience was a supply of groceries.

Henry also worked in the lumber woods in the winter and on the river in the summer. Many and wild were the tales that he had told me as a boy about his life in the lumber woods. If I deeply regret not having written more explicitly about his ancestors, I equally regret not having been able to faithfully record those many stories of

a strenuous life in the woods, the comradeship of the lumbermen (he never used the word, "lumberjack"), and some of the times when the men came to town. Henry, himself was not the saloon habitue' but had plenty of tales to tell of others that were of that habit.

The stealing of saw-logs in Michigan was apparently as infamous and notorious as the rustling of cattle was in the West. As you know, the saw-log received a logmark on the end. It was a sledge-hammer type tool with the brand of the lumber company owner which was stamped into the log. The thief would saw off about two inches of the log that had the mark on it. There have been a great many of these sections of log found. I saw one that had been found only a few years ago. Every one that was found was evidence of a stolen saw-log!

Henry told of a Frenchman named Rabishaw who had been accused of stealing saw-logs in this manner. As Henry had known him well, he talked to him about the matter. Rabishaw talked with a very heavy French accent that should be properly imitated to tell the story right. Rabishow protested that he was innocent, saying, "I no steal the saw-logs! Sure, I take five logs from Wright and saw off the logmark and sell them to Butman, but then I take five logs from Butman and sell them to Wright. So, they still have the same number of logs, and Rabishow - he is happy!" The names of the companies may not be correct but that is the was the story went. Rabishow's philosophy was that as long as they had an equal number of logs that everything was all right!

Then one time Henry told of his winter in the woods. There were no baths to be had in the camps and the men often sewed their long underwear onto themselves to keep out drafts and save buttons. It remained sewed up until spring. They slep in bunks that had some straw spread out on it and rolled up in a blanket. As you can well imagine, by spring there were other little creatures in the straw and underwear, too. Although this may seem repugnant to you and I today, it was a way of like then and since everyone (just about everyone) had it, no one seemed to feel worse off than anyone else.

Well, this one winter, Henry had worked in the woods further north. I've heard him mention working around Red Keg (now called Averill) and I've heard him talk of Camp Sixteen (located on Section 16 of some township). Whereever, he had to stay overnight in a hotel while on his way back to Saginaw. As he asked for a room in this hotel, the clerk informed him that he was all full unless he was willing to share a bed with another man. This also may seem

strange or even shocking to today's standards of hostelry but it was apparently common at that time. So, Henry agreed to share the bed and went upstairs to the room. The room-mate was not there but was down in the saloon. Henry undressed (except for the sewn-on underwear) and crawled into bed. Shortly after, his roommate came in. The man asked Henry if he wasn't worried about catching lice by sleeping with a stranger. Henry replied that he didn't worry. So then the stranger announced that he had lice and maybe Henry wouldn't want to sleep with him. "Well", Henry replied, "I guess I'll probably catch them some time so it might as well be now". After the man had gotten into bed and lay there for awhile, Henry noticed him wiggle a little. "Hey", the stranger said, "You know that when I told you I had lice, you know that I was only kidding, don't you?" Henry replied, "Well, the next man that you tell that to, you won't be kidding". As you can imagine, Henry had lice after his long period in the woods and had not yet gotten to that boiling bath and a thorough cleansing of himself and his clothes that every lumberman had to go through every spring.

Lice were the subject of lumbering conversations and jokes at that time. Henry tells of fellows in the lumber camps that never changed their clothes from fall to spring and, of course, they acquired many of the little creatures by that time. One day as the weather turned quite warm in the early spring, some of the men decided to shed some of their clothing and boil them to get the lice out of them. This one fellow complained that his lice were tougher than the usual lice. "Why", he said, "I threw those clothes into this big kettle of boiling water and put a lot of lye into the water to clean them and kill the lice. I let them soak and boil for two hours and when I came back to get my clothes out of the boiling lye, there was the lice, swimming contentedly on their backs, smiling up at me and really enjoying going swimming for the first time that spring!"

I should just briefly describe some of the lumbering operations in order to understand just what Henry's job was. I had mentioned that he worked in the woods in the winter and on the river in the summer. Lumbering in Michigan at that time was done only in the winter (for the most part). Nowadays the lumber companies have huge, heavy-duty equipment that can operate in the summer as well or better than in the winter. However, hauling the logs out of the woods was a major operation. Crude logging trails were cut through the woods. In the winter, the sleighs would pack down a track. Sometimes the loaders would attempt especially large loads of logs either to test their loading skill or for the teamster to test the pulling power of his

team. It might require the assistance of a pry-bar or another team to break the newly loaded sleigh loose from the frozen ice but, once moving, the team could move several tons of logs.

The logs were hauled to an appropriate spot along the bank of some stream. There they were piled in such a fashion that they were held on the bank by one or a few key pins or wedges. These places were called rollways and one such spot on the Au Sable is still referred to as Rollways Camp.

When spring arrived and the stream was running high, the logs were released into the stream. This was always a hazardous operation and has often been the cause of some injuries to lumbermen or even the loss of life in some rare cases. The tricky part was that a lumberman had to go near the bottom of the pile with a sledge to knock out the pin or wedge holding the pile. As these were knocked out, the logs began to roll. A man had to be quick and agile to get out of the way. He might run to the end of the pile or if that wasn't possible, he might simply run up the pile of logs as the logs were rolling under his feet.

Uncle Leo Lockwood tells of a harrowing incident related to him by his father-in-law, Henry Coats. He says that spring had arrived and the ice was out of the streams and it was time to begin sending the logs down the streams and rivers to the mills. Henry Coats had been assigned to the rollway and he was to release the key that held the huge pile of logs piled on the bank. Henry went to the bottom of the pile and worked away at the holding device. I'm not certain just how this operated but in some manner could be released to permit the logs to roll into the stream. Just as he gave a heave on the key log, Henry lost his balance and fell backward into the stream. As he was losing his balance he heard the rumble and the roar of the huge logs rolling down upon him. As he fell into the stream, he wasted not a second coming to the surface but began swimming under a small wharf-like projection on the bank. He grabbed onto a spile and held on as the logs boomed and crashed over his head and into the stream. The other lumbermen gaped in horror as the pile of logs settled into the stream, slowly coming to the surface and began floating away. Henry was nowhere to be seen and they assumed that his broken body was somewhere on the bottom of the stream. Imagine their surprise and joy when Henry, after the logs had stopped falling, ducked back down under the water and came up again on the river side of the projection. He climbed out of the water, dripping wet but with a whole and sound body.

In the spring high water, the logs floated free down the tributaries into the Tittabawassee River and down as far as Bryant's Trip. Bryant's Trip was built across the river just north of the intersection of the Frost Road and the North River Road. You can still see the spiles there in the river. The Trip consisted of floating logs attached to the spiles on the sides of the river and chained end to end across the river to form a long gate. This boom held the logs back until they began to accumulate. This was done because there was quite a bit of small boat traffic in the river below this point and they didn't want the floating logs constituting a hazard to the boats.

At a specified and announced time the Trip was opened and the logs came floating down. They floated free down the Tittabawassee as far as the Tittabawassee Boom Company's sorting area. This was located about one-half mile upstream from Green Point (the confluence of the Shiawassee and Tittabawassee Rivers).

The Tittawawassee Boom Company was a large and powerful corporation. Much of the development of the lumber industry in the Saginaw area is due to the efforts of the "Boom Company", as it was commonly called. At one time, the Boom Company even printed its own money. Some of that currency is still seen in historical exhibits.

The Boom Company had built booms of floating logs to facilitate the sorting of the logs of the various lumber companies. At the upstream end of the sorting area, the booms came in from each side of the river to form a funnel shape through which the logs floated into a narrow passageway. On the sides of the passageway there were a number of yards or pens, one for each lumber company. One riverman was posted at the entrance to each yard. As a log floated past, the log-mark was read. If it belonged to his company, the riverman took his pike pole and guided the log into his collecting point. When sufficient logs had been gathered, they were formed into a raft. The logs were fastened together with rope held to the log by driving a logging pin, straddling the rope, into the log. The boom was then opened and tugs hooked onto the raft and towed it downstream to the appropriate lumber mill.

Because the spring high water soon subsided, the Boom Company had built a number of small dams on the upper streams. The water was held here until it got high. Then a sluice gate was opened and the water, with logs floating in it, rushed out and downstream.

As the summer came on, the Boom Company found that the receding water had left huge numbers of logs on the mud flats beside the river. Rivermen and teams were employed

to go along the river and roll or drag those logs back into the river. Some of the logs sank into the mud or into the river bottom and were not recovered at that time. For many years after logging ceased in the Saginaw area, men salvaged logs left from the logging operations.

One of the anecdotes that Henry Coats had told me of his life at the Boom Company was of the larceny of his coffee. It seems that the men would carry their lunch and along with it a large bottle of coffee. As I understood it, they had no Thermos bottles and so he set the coffee jar near some steam pipes to keep it warm. (I don't know what the steam pipes were for - unless some kind of donkey engine) Sometimes during the morning some of the men would come in and drink part of their coffee -- having a short coffee-break. Well, when lunch-time arrived on some days, Henry found that someone had drank all his coffee. At first he shrugged it off but as it continued and became more regular, he decided to do something about it. One day, while walking to work, he saw a frog hopping along. He bent down and caught the frog. Taking out his pocket knife (it seemed all men in those days carried a pocket knife) he cut up the frog and dropped the pieces into the coffee. That day he found his coffee only partly drank and the pieces of the frog were now visible. For quite a while after that no one molested his coffee.

Some time later, his coffee again began to be drunk by this unknown person. Henry decided that he would have to take more drastic measures. This time he took several laxative tablets and dissolved them into the coffee. At lunch time, he found that his coffee had been drunk. During the afternoon, he was alert for the culprit. It wasn't long before he noticed that one individual was making repeated and almost constant trips to the backhouse. Henry was never again bothered by the coffee thief.

While Henry worked for the Boom Company, he made the acquaintance and worked with a young fellow, Billy Burlison. Billy was my mother's father. He was eleven years younger than Henry was was the kid around the Boom Company operations. I don't know his exact age when he went to work for the Boom Company but I believe he was a young teen-ager. Boys went to work very young at that time.

Both Henry and Billy have told me of the time that Henry and another man threw Billy into the river. It seems that this one day Henry and some other men were assigned to some job wherein they might get wet. I don't know what the job was but, anyway, they asked Billy to put their

tobacco, pocket knife, etc. in his pocket to keep it dry. As the day wore on, Billy began kidding the men and making jokes about them. As the jokes and horse-play continued Henry began to show his irritation and told Billy to quit or they'd throw him into the river. Billy didn't think they were serious or else it was just the youth in him. Anyway, he kept it up until finally Henry and another man did grab him. They told him to apologize or they'd throw him in the river. Billy refused. So, one man took him by the hands and the other by the ankles. Billy didn't even struggle as he still had their tobacco and pocket articles in his pocket. He didn't think they would really throw him in as that would get their own things wet and they wanted to keep them dry. So, they swung him back and forth, counting, "One, Two, Three". Each time they told him to say he was sorry, but Billy didn't. So, on the third swing they let him go and he sailed out into the river. He was a very surprised and wet boy as he thrashed about in the water and pulled himself out.

Uncle Leo Lockwood tells us of an incident related to him by Henry Coats of Henry's encounter with Silver Jack Driscoll. Silver Jack was one of Saginaw's most colorful characters. He was nick-named because of his long, silver colored hair. You can find accounts of his deed and misdeeds in almost any history of Saginaw. Some claimed Silver Jack was an outlaw, a trouble-maker, disorderly person and just plain no-good! Others thought that he wasn't hard to get along with and although he dearly loved a good fight, as many of the lumbermen did, he didn't hold a grudge. He was probably responsible for much of the reputation of all lumbermen who came back into the city in the spring after a long winter in the woods. Many of the men had a lot of "catching up" to do. Besides visits to several of Saginaw's many saloons and brothels, the men somehow managed to get into a good fight or two. Sometimes these fights were between individuals but often they were gang fights. The men from rival camps or rival companies would often get involved over any possible subject - or even no subject at all - just a desire to fight. Silver Jack was noted for being in the thick of the fight. He could hit hard and he could take it.

Well, Henry relates that he had gone into a saloon and had just ordered a drink of whiskey. The bartender had poured the drink and Henry was about to reach for it when he heard a movement at the saloon doors. The men in the saloon looked around and saw Silver Jack coming into the saloon. He walked up to the bar where Henry Coats stood

and reached around and took Henry's drink and tossed it down his own throat. He sat the glass down in front of Henry and strode on down the bar. He did that to others, possibly hoping for a challenge to fight, but none did. Silver Jack was not challenged lightly, but it infuriated Henry.

Some time later, Henry was walking down Niagara Street (it was called Water Street then) in Saginaw City. There were many saloons along the water-front street and wooden sidewalks connected them. At one place there had been several shacks built and as Henry passed one of them, the door was open and he saw Silver Jack drunk and asleep on a bunk. He was still burning from Silver Jack having stolen his drink so he strode into the shack and grabbed Jack by the shirt and yanked him off the bunk and onto the floor. Henry then "put the boot to him". This was a lumberman's expression for kicking a man with the river-man's caulked boots (pronounced 'corked' boots). The rivermen wore these 'corks' in their boots to enable them to walk on the floating logs without slipping. Walking on the rough wooden sidewalks or into the saloons with their rough plank floors were never bothered by the 'corks' and, of course, the 'corks' came in very handy in a fight. This was usually the final act in any of the many saloon fights. After "giving him the boot", Henry turned and left.

Later, as some of the men were telling of Henry's ac-complishment, some of them thought that if they were him, they'd get as far out of town as possible. They warned Henry that Silver Jack would find the identity of the man that had beaten him and Henry's "goose would be cooked". Henry said that he wasn't afraid and he wasn't running from Silver Jack even though there was the possibility of retaliation.

Sure enough, one day as Henry stood in a saloon, in came Silver Jack. He walked directly up to Henry and asked, "Say, ain't you the lad that give me a cleaning one night when I was drunk?" Henry replied, "Well, maybe I did muss you up a little but I didn't think I hurt you too much". "Look at these scars down my face", Silver Jack replied as he pointed to the 'cork' marks on his cheek. He said, "You must have a pretty good set of knuckles to do that" and he turned to the bartender and said, "Here, buy this man a drink!" The bartender set him up a drink and Silver Jack and Henry got along good after that.

A description of Henry Coats' life in the lumber woods is contained in an interview by a reporter of the Saginaw News in 1935. He had brought the reporter a copy of the words to a lumberjack ballad, "Turner's Camp". Unfortunately, the News did not print the words of the song and I don't have a copy.

"Henry Coats, 82 years-old former lumberjack, drove his car from his home, 815 Waller Street to the News a few days ago to exhibit a lumberjack ballad which his grandson had typed at his dictation. What's more, he remained to tell a little of early Saginaw as he knew it in the lumbering days.

The song, called "Turner's Camp", was written, said Mr. Coats, in the early sixties by a wayward lumberjack who had worked a season at Turner's Camp, on the upper reaches of the Chippewa river, above Mount Pleasant.

After explaining the significance of the song, Mr. Coats sat down to reminisce about the lumbering days in Saginaw valley.

This is a vagary, perhaps, but one imagines in his neighborhood he isn't known as "old man Coats". His fine, white hair is thick and plentiful. Though 82 years have brought a cant to his broad shoulders, his head is erect and his gaze is direct as he talks. Time was, according to his own word, when he wielded canthook and peavy with the best of the jacks for the old Tittabawassee Boom Company, for which he rafted logs for several years.

He told of brave days when the Saginaw was known throughout the valley as the "big river". Folks all over Michigan waited for word when the spring thaw transformed the sullen, sloughing Saginaw, flowing under its blanket of ice, into a swollen, grey-green freshet of boiling water.

The waters teemed with rough-barked logs, bobbing and bucking, on their way to the eager saws of the lumbering mills. That, said Mr. Coats, was the spring drive on the Saginaw. He saw it many times as a lumberjack.

He didn't tell a story in its accurate definition. It was what he remembered of his experiences in Saginaw, the lumber town. Now and then he paused. Generalities ceased when an incident, long ago, etched sharply in his mind, occurred as it had happened in the old days. This his talk would be this:

"Some of the boys? Yes, I remember a good many of them. Let's see. There was 'Silver' Jack, Jim Burke, Jack Dunn and Bill Paine. 'Silver' Jack and Paine -- they were bad ones. Big, Swarthy Bill Paine. I can see him yet the night he walked into a saloon here. There were sailors, dockwallopers, mill-men and lumberjacks there that night. Kind

of a swaggering walk to him, and a loud bully's voice.

"Watch out for me!" he said, "my name's Paine". Up jumped a big sailor. "Ny name's Paine-Killer", said the sailor. They went to it and fought quite a while. I guess it was Bill Paine got the worst of it. But the boys, generally speaking, weren't bad fellows."

Then the old lumberjack told a little of the handling of the spring drive.

"During the winter months, the logs were sawed in the woods, loaded on sleighs, hauled to the river, and piled in tiers on the ice. When the ice melted, the logs settled into the water. When they jammed, a man had to look sharp with his peavy for the key log and free them. He had to be quick about it. There were the 'sackers', crews of men who followed the logs on their course to the mills. When the logs came poking out of the river onto the banks, the 'sacker' shoved them back in.

We used to work from early morning until nightfall when the drive was on.

At night, after supper, when we were in the woods, we used to stay in or near the bunkhouse and tell stories or sing songs. If a fellow couldn't sing, we thought he could at least make a joyful noise. If he couldn't do that, we got a blanket, plumped him in the middle and tossed him up in the air. That usually worked and did a lot to develop voices. We wanted to be happy in those days.

"Our food was good, and so were the cooks. It wasn't what you'd call fancy fare, but there was plenty of it and it was well-cooked. Beans, salt pork,--sometimes fresh beef -- and dried apples. We like it."

Henry Coats looked at his watch.

"Well, I'd better be driving over town. I guess that's about all there is to tell. Except, may, to say I'd like to weigh a hundred and eighty-five again and be young enough to swing a canthook."

During the period of time that Henry Coats worked on the river and in the woods, he became acquainted with Rebecca McLean. I don't know exactly how they became acquainted. Rebecca's sister, Esther (McLean) Day was a cook in the Boom Company's boarding house at this time. Billy Burlison was a boarder there. Perhaps Esther's orphaned little sister had come to visit or to stay with her and perhaps work in the kitchen? Rebecca ("Becky") had lived with her other sister, Nancy (McLean)(Charland) Spooner. Nancy ran a boarding house near one of the mills at Melbourne. Henry may have met her there.

If you're looking for Melbourne, it isn't there anymore. It's all gone. Most of it burned and the rest just disappeared when the mills closed. It was a big center of the lumber mills in this area and was a busy, bustling place. It was located downstream from the present city of Zilwaukee.

However they met, Henry Coats and Rebecca McLean did meet. They fell in love and were married. They were married in James Township on April 27, 1879 by Anson C. Spooner, Justice of the Peace.

And now, let us look at the family of Rebecca McLean.

Section 2. - The McLean and Lincoln families.

Rebecca McLean's father, Hugh McLean was born May 15, 1808 in County Antrim, Ulster (now called North Ireland). On census records and other papers his place of birth is given as "Ireland". However, the definite Scottish origin of his name shows him to be one of the descendants of the Scottish "planters" in Ulster. The Scots had been given tracts of land in Ireland for their assistance in recruiting soldiers in the war against the Irish. This was in 1688 during the war between Protestant King William III, known as William of Orange, and the Catholic James II, who was supported by the Irish in trying to regain his throne.

I am indebted to Mrs. Laura Willhite, Marquette, Mich. for additional information on Hugh McLean. Laura is a great-granddaughter of Hugh's son, James McLean.

Hugh came to the United States in the early 1830's. He went to Groveland, Livingston County, N.Y. I have no idea how he happened to come to Groveland. Apparently he came alone. Mrs. Laurence Toland, a genealogist in Groveland told us that the area had been settled very early by people from Ulster. Perhaps there was someone already there who had recommended the place to Hugh McLean.

After Hugh had been there for awhile, he heard of a girl, also named McLean, who lived a short distance from his home. One day he walked there to visit her. He found that she was a distant cousin and, although he hadn't met her, she had lived only about 12 miles from his home in County Antrim. She had arrived in the U.S. the same year that Hugh arrived and only about six months apart. She was Nancy McLean. She was nearly ten years older than Hugh but that didn't discourage him. He courted her and they were married.

I don't have the date of their marriage. Their first child, Sarah, was born Aug. 6, 1833. She later married Loren Braley, son of Martin and Hannah Braley, and died April 18, 1900 in Freeland, Mich. Their second child, James, was born about 1835. He married Sarah Braley, Loren's sister. She was born July 26, 1843, died Sept. 29, 1884. The third child was David, born Feb. 12, 1837, married Lydia McHenry, and died Dec. 20, 1906. The fourth child was Elizabeth (Libby), born about 1841, married Wesley Moore.

Some of the information and dates here are taken from "The Braley Genealogy", by George Randall, published in 1911. Some of my information from the family, does not agree with some of Randall's information. I believe that I am correct on the information given here.

Hugh McLean is listed in the 1840 census in Livingston County, Groveland Township, New York. That census only gives the name of the head of the family but shows he and Nancy with three children and an older couple between 60 and 70 years of age. Possibly these persons were Nancy's parents. I have no record of them coming to Michigan but saw no record of their death in Groveland.

Apparently it was in the early 1840's that Hugh and Nancy and their four children came to Saginaw County. According to well established family information, he first built a log cabin on the south side of the Tittabawassee River across from where (later) Riverside Park was located. I could find no land record of a land purchase but he may have just lived there for a time.

I had heard that Hugh McLean brought the first wagon to Saginaw over the horse trail from Flint. I had also heard that he grew the first wheat in the Saginaw Valley. In the "History of Saginaw County" by James Mills, Mills attributes these acts to Charles McLean. Charles McLean was here earlier than Hugh and was one of the earliest settlers in the Saginaw valley.

Rebecca (McLean) Coats confirmed the location of the log cabin home on the Tittabawassee River when she told a Saginaw News reporter, who was writing an item for their 50th wedding anniversary in 1929, that "Mrs Coats having been born in 1861 across the river from the present site of Riverside Park". Riverside Park has since disappeared but its location was on the north bank of the Tittabawassee river from the foot of Maple Street to about ¼ mile west of there. Dad had also said that his Aunt Nancy had told him that the home was right across the river from the "Jack Rabbit" ride at the Riverside Park amusement park. This would have been directly across from the foot of Maple St.

Although the family had said that Hugh McLean brought the first wagon into Saginaw from Flint, Judge Albert Miller states otherwise. In Vol. 22, "Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collection", page 452, Judge Miller tells of a group coming to Saginaw in May, 1834 and that "was the first wheeled vehicle I ever knew of passing over the old trail". We know that Hugh McLean did not come here until after 1840.

Mother, Myrtle L. Coats, said that she had heard that Hugh McLean operated a ferry at two different locations. The first location was where the old Center Road bridge crossed the Tittabawassee River. This was about one-quarter mile east of the present Center Road Bridge. Later, he operated a ferry about 50 - 100 yards south of the new Tittabawassee Road Bridge.

In Vol. 13, "Michigan Pioneer & Historical Collections", page 355, Judge Miller described a trip that he made to Flint with Humphrey McLean and Charles McLean in Jan., 1834. They took grain to a mill to have it ground into flour. The trip described by Albert Miller and the McLeans is similar to that attributed to Hugh McLean.

In a Saginaw News interview in 1942, Esther (McLean) Day told the reporter that she "was born in a cabin near the shore of the Tittabawassee river, across from what is now Riverside Park, on Oct. 17, 1854. Her father came to Saginaw - he was born in Ireland - well over a hundred years ago. "My father brought the first team of horses to Saginaw, I've heard him tell" Mrs. Day says. "My father kept a grocery and operated the ferry for several years until the first bridge was built, when I was about six or seven. And I can still see those logs, jammed solid clear across the river so that a man could walk them all the way to Midland and never get his feet wet".

So, although I don't know the exact date that Hugh and Nancy McLean and family came to Saginaw, I know that they had been here for a few years when Nancy died. She died on Feb. 1, 1848 at the age of 50 years (making her birth in 1798).

After Nancy's death, Hugh married Amelia "Milley" Lincoln on Dec. 3, 1848 in Tittabawassee Township. Hugh made up for marrying a woman older than himself the first time. Milley was only 16 years old when Hugh married her. He was 41 years old. Family information states that Milley's family had been neighbors of Hugh McLean's family

and that Milley had been a close friend of Hugh McLean's children. They have even related that Milley as a child had sat on Hugh's lap.

Amelia Lincoln was the daughter of Caleb Lincoln, Sr. and Elizabeth "Betsey" (Palmer) Lincoln. Caleb Lincoln was born about 1800 in Vermont (according to the census report). He was the son of Apollos Lincoln. The research on the Lincoln family is not complete but at present our information is that Apollos had at least four children. They are: 1. Abner; 2. Apollos, Jr., born in 1797 in Vermont; 3. Caleb; 4. Susan, born Feb. 28, 1806, married _____Lamb, and moved to Duck Lake in Calhoun County, Mich. The family of Susan (Lincoln) Lamb is being researched by Mary and Bea Lincoln, 5550 Stepladder Road, Parma, MI 49269. Alyn Gantz, also descended from Caleb Lincoln is researching the Lincoln family also. We hope to have more to report later. Betsey (Palmer) Lincoln was born about 1805 in New York. The date and place of their marriage is unknown. Their children are:

Betsey (Palmer) Lincoln admitted to Kalamazoo State Hospital Nov. 1860 - died there 26 DEC 1861

Name	Born	Died and Buried	Married
Caleb, Jr.	23 Sept 1824 in New York	23 Aug. 1883 McBratnie Cem. James Town.	Emily Monroe Williams (1823-1915 on 3-14-1847
Elizabeth "Betsey"	in New York	Betw. May 1851 - 1860	Richard Andrews 1809-1895
Amelia	Abt. 1832	7 Nov 1872 Owen Cem. Thomas Twn.	Hugh McLean 1808-1872 3 Dec 1848
Mary	13 June 1834	29 Oct 1916 Memory Garden Cem. Tawas City,MI	Henry Stickney 1829-1868
Alexander Russell	1839-40 in New York	12 June 1898 Wisner Twp.Cem Tuscola Co.,MI	Lavina McCarty 1846-1910
John and twin Lovetta	Abt. 1842 in Mich.		
William Henry	1 Nov. 1845 in Sag.Co.,MI	29 May 1926 Pine Grove Cem. near Freeland,MI	Nora Rolland 1859-1952 26 June 1875

As we can tell by the place of birth of the children, we know that Caleb and Betsey came to Michigan between 1839 and 1842. I don't know where they lived the first few years but it was apparently near Hugh McLean. The first recorded

purchase of land by Caleb Lincoln was on Feb. 9, 1849. This, you will notice, is after Amelia's marriage to Hugh McLean so we know that they had been here several years before that. In 1849 he purchased 42 acres and Caleb, Jr. purchased the adjoining 50 acres located on the west side of the North River Road in Thomas Township about one mile north of the Dice Road intersection.

Hugh and Amelia McLean are listed in the 1850 census as living in Saginaw Township. Their is a land purchase recorded in the Register of Deeds office of Hugh McLean purchasing 80 acres of land on Nov. 5, 1851. The land was three miles east and one mile south of Birch Run. Dad knows nothing of this transaction and believe it must be an error or possibly another person. There is a record of a land purchase on Nov. 7, 1854 by Hugh McLean of land on the south-east corner of Pierce and Hospital Roads in Saginaw Township. A few years later he purchased 96 acres at the south-west corner of the Dice Road and North River Road. It includes the land from the corner to one-half mile south except for a small lot owned by William Burlison, Sr. and extends from the river to one/quarter mile west of the intersection. He lived here until his death in 1872.

One of the reasons that many persons say that you should never attempt a genealogy is that you may find some undesirable "skeletons in the closet". Amelia's brother Caleb ("Uncle Cale") had such a skeleton. He was known to be a heavy drinker and was very mean to his wife when drunk. One night "Uncle Cale" came home drunk and was being very mean to his wife, Emily. One of his sons interceded and finally took a gun and shot his father, killing him. It was a great tragedy to the family and they sorrowed deeply. No legal action was taken against the son as it was deemed justifiable homicide.

Aunt Esther (McLean) Day always used to tell that her mother (Amelia Lincoln McLean) was a second-cousin to Abraham Lincoln. I have researched this statement very carefully and can find no credence to it. Amelia's father was Caleb Lincoln, Sr. It was difficult to find the identity of his father. Apparently there was little or no communication with Amelia's grandparents. The reason for this came out in research by Mary and Bea Lincoln of Parma, Mich. They had obtained a hand-written list of names of the descendants and family of Apollos Lincoln. After the name of Caleb was the notation (he ran away). I have not yet learned of the parents of Apollos Lincoln but am certain that if he is related to Abraham, it is a very distant relationship.

After Hugh and Amelia were married, they had eleven children. These children were:

1. Samuel, born about 1850, married Nellie E. Smith, Aug. 28, 1883. Had son, Joseph, b. 6-22-1890, died 8-22-1895
2. Nancy, born about 1852, married 1st Henry ~~Charland~~ CHARTRAND on Feb. 27, 1870, had one daughter, Etta, born 1873. Charland died about Jan., 1873. Married 2nd, Anson Spooner. He was born about 1851 in Maine. Their children were: Lillian Myrtle, born 1873; Joseph J. born 1879
3. Joseph, born about 1853. Married Harriet A. (Hattie) Wiggins, daughter of Jonathan and Lydia Caroline (Pierce) Wiggins. Harriett A. born Dec. 14, 1853, died Sept. 17, 1896. (Note: After Jonathan Wiggins died June 14, 1856, Lydia re-married to William Burlison, Sr. She was his step-daughter and half-sister to Wm. A. Burlison). Joseph and Harriet had a daughter, Millie McLean, born 1876. She had a daughter, Edna Fournier, Yorba Linda, CA 92686.
4. Esther, born Oct. 27, 1855, married Orlando Day, Mar. 6, 1873. They had a son, George H., born March 5, 1880, died May 29, 1881. Orlando Day died Jan. 12, 1925; Esther Day died June 10, 1944.
5. Rose Ann, born about 1859, married _____Ferguson. They had a daughter. During the birth of the baby, Rose Ann suffered a "nervous breakdown" and was later committed to the Pontiac Asylum where she died May 15, 1880. The baby was adopted by Lydia Burlison, who was the mid-wife during the birth. The baby was named Lydia. She married Henry Miller of Detroit.
6. Rebecca, born June 3, 1861, married Henry A. Coats on April 27, 1879. He died Sept. 18, 1937. She died Oct. 16, 1943. Their descendants listed in appendix.
7. Jennie - date of birth unknown.
8. Mary, born Oct. 23, 1865, died Feb. 23, 1882 of typhoid fever
9. Harriet (Hattie), born June 11, 1870, married James Stevenson on Dec. 14, 1893. He was born April 22, 1869, died Feb. 13, 1931. She died July 9, 1935. They had one daughter, Vera, born Oct. 27, 1894, died 1976.
10. Hugh, Jr., date of birth unknown, believe he died as a baby.
11. Minnie, born Oct. 27, 1872 (just eleven days before the death of her mother, Amelia)

Aunt Jennie (Bessie Jane Coats) Lockwood tells of her granfather, Hugh McLean as her mother, Rebecca (McLean) Coats had told it to her. Even though Rebecca was only eleven years old when her father died, she remembers him as being a good man. There was no church yet in the area but Hugh was a deeply religious man and read the Bible regularly. Becky said that they had only two books in the house, Pilgrim's Progress and the Bible. Becky recalled that when she had received her vaccination, her arm was very sore and she couldn't sleep. Her Dad came in and sat by the bed with her and read the Bible to her until she was tired enough to fall asleep.

Becky recalled going to town with her father. As the horse was going down the road, Hugh would wind the lines around the whip stalk and take out his knitting. Yes, knitting was not considered for women only. It was the way to get new clothing. Hugh knitted whenever the opportunity presented. They had a lot of children and it took a lot of knitting by both he and Millie to keep them in the necessary clothing. He raised sheep on his farm, and they would card it and spin it into yarn and then knit the yarn into articles of clothing.

In Saginaw, Hugh bought a bolt of cotton and a bolt of calico. After they had returned home, Hugh and Millie sat in the evening making sheets. The bolt of cotton was a yard wide so it had to be pieced together to make a sheet. Hugh assisted in sewing an 'overcast' stitch binding two strips into one sheet. They, of course, had no sewing machine and all of the sewing had to be done by hand. Becky's mother used the calico for making dresses and shirts for the family.

Becky recalled that her father was a very staunch Orangeman (the Ulster followers of William of Orange), or as she had heard it said, a Rank Orangeman. Aunt Jennie didn't know of any incidents involving his politics or his philosophical beliefs but said there was no question about where his loyalties lay.

Amelia (Lincoln) McLean died Nov. 7, 1872 at the age of 40 years, six months. The cause of death was listed on the certificate as "milk leg".

Hugh McLean died less than a month after Amelia. He died Dec. 1, 1872. Cause of death was listed as "Inflamation of the lungs", age 66, place of birth "Ireland", Parents - "Unknown".

They were both first buried in the Batchelor Cemetery located on Midland Road across from Immerman Park. SUMMER. 1916 However, ~~sometime later~~ they were dug up and moved (what was left of them) to the Owen Cemetery, located on North River Road about two miles north of Shields.

The children were shocked and grieved at the death of their parents. They had no grandparents. Amelia's father, Caleb Lincoln, had died sometime after 1850 and her mother, Betsey, had died sometime after 1860 (dates unknown). Although Amelia had brothers and sisters, for reasons unknown, none of the children went to live with them. Nancy's (Hugh's first wife) parents were apparently dead but unknown where or when they died. According to the family there were no other McLean relatives in the area. I had noticed in the 1850 census of Saginaw that the next listing to Hugh and Milley McLain (sic) was John and Agnes McLean and their children, Hugh and Nancy! This seems to be more than a coincidence but there is no knowledge nor evidence to indicate any relationship. At any rate, the children decided to care for each other.

Joe McLean had been courting Hattie Wiggins. She was the daughter of Lydia (Pierce)(Wiggins) Burlison. So, Joe and Hattie got married. They lived on the family farm and took Jennie, Mary and Hattie McLean to live with them. Joe McLean acquired the farm through inheritance and/or purchase or other arrangement.

The baby, Minnie, had to be provided for. The oldest girl, Sarah (Mrs. Loren Braley) had just had a baby of her own. A cow's milk formula was either unavailable or unknown or at least not feasible. It was decided that Sarah would take Minnie and be able to nurse both babies. Elizabeth (Libby) wasn't married at this time. She later married Wesley Moore as his second wife. Since she was able to help, she spent the winter with Sarah and Loren Braley and helped Sarah care for the babies and do housework.

Rebecca went to live with Nancy (McLean) and Henry Charland, and spent the winter there.

Esther was married the following March 6, to Orlando Day.

During the winter, Nancy's husband died. He had left her with a small child, just a year or so old. In the spring she took a job running a Boom Company boarding house in Melbourne. She took the baby Minnie with her as they felt that the baby was now old enough to tolerate cow's milk. Nancy also hired Libby to help her run the boarding house and also took Becky with her. Becky helped care for the two babies - Nancy's baby and Minnie, and when she wasn't doing that she helped clean vegetables and peeled potatoes. During the afternoon when the babies were asleep, Becky would walk along the river and pick wild raspberries, wild plums or any other fruit she could

find. Nancy and Libby would make the fruit into pies for the men in the boarding house. The Boom Company didn't furnish much fruit and the men were very pleased when Nancy supplied them with pies from Becky's fresh plums or berries or fruit.

I had commented that Aunt Esther Day had also operated a boarding house for the Boom Company. Some of the life of cooking for a lumberjack's boarding house is portrayed in an interview by the Saginaw News in 1943. The article says:

FOLKS TODAY DON'T KNOW WHAT WORK IS---

Mrs. Esther Day, Going on 88, Looks Back Over an Eventful Life

Watching the deft fingers of Mrs. Esther Day taking quick, neat and even stitches over the expanse of the bright, new patch-work quilt she's making entirely by hand, you'd never believe 87 years have passed her by.

And you'd be surprised, too, at the nimbleness with which that little lady, who is one of Saginaw's real pioneers, trips downstairs from her workroom to sit with you in the cozy warmth of the old-fashioned hardcoal stove, with its nickel trimmings and the glow of coals shining through the isinglas, and go back over those days of long ago.

Listen to her awhile. It was more than 65 years ago that she was a cook in a boarding house for the lumbermen, baking a barrel of flour at a time into bread, paring and frying a bushel and a half of potatoes and frying 20 to 25 pounds of beefsteak and porkchops for breadfast for hungry men. "And that's not toast and coffee", she tells you.

And before that, when Esther Day, then Esther McLean, scarcely in her teens, one of a family of 12 children, took over the big job of helping to raise eight young brothers and sisters when the mother died and left a baby only 11 days old.

Listen to her speak of the trees and the woods with a real affection, imagine the scarcely five feet of her "telling off" a too-bold husky, plaidshirted lumberjack, notice the sure way about her when a boarding house table does duty as an operating platform for a woodman with a crushed leg or suffering the agony of burns from the brine of a salt block.

Go along through more boarding houses in Carrollton, Zilwaukee, through the years as lumber ceased to be king, and on to her present home at 1719 Wood ---her home for "30 years it will be come April 15".

Mrs. Day lives alone - her husband has been dead for 15 years. She does her own work, keeps herself and her house of seven or eight rooms both "neat as a pin". And you wonder how she does it.

"Well," she'll tell you, "I'm a person who likes the taste of victuals better when they're cooked over a wood fire. One trouble, though, I never could split wood. So, a lot of times I trade hemstitching and sewing and home-made bedding for my firewood. I was doing nursing up until two years ago. Now, mostly I make those patchwork quilts, by hand. And only new remnants and the best of batting goes into them, too.

"I'll have to find the time this spring to do some papering; there are two rooms that need it. I've kept this whole house papered. Done it all myself, and I guess I could sure do a reasonable job for others, if necessary. But the ceilings do get a bit rough on the neck".

As for a philosophy: It's getting so most people don't know what work is. But there's a lot to putting your mind to it. Making up your mind to do something is half the battle.

Esther McLean was born in a cabin near the shore of the Tittabawassee river, across from what is now Riverside Park, on Oct. 17, 1854. Her father came to Saginaw---he was born in Ireland---well over a hundred years ago.

"My father brought the first team of horses to Saginaw, I've heard him tell", Mrs. Day says. "My mother was Amelia McLean. She was a second cousin of Abraham Lincoln. They owned a lot of land around here then. Mrs. Day's home now is only about two miles from her birthplace.

"I was 17 when I was married to Orlando Day on March 16, 1873, in Saginaw. We were married in Saginaw. Our honeymoon was a trip on a paddlewheel steamer to Midland.

"My father kept a grocery and operated the ferry for several years until the first bridge was built, when I was about six or seven. And I can still see those logs, jammed solid clear across the river so that a man could walk them all the way to Midland and never get his feet wet.

"Four years after I was married, there was a need for cooks so I went to work in the Merrill Boom. I was there 14 years.

"It was hard work, but we didn't seem to mind in those days like folks do now. We could get a lot of pleasure out of such a simple thing as an occasional street car ride. And I like the woods.

"It's a shame now the way they're letting the river grow up like a frogpond, after all the millions of dollars it has helped to create and the millionaires it has made.

"But nowadays folks seem to be too impatient. Take children, for instance. The neighborhood youngsters come around often. People say they ask too many questions. If they didn't ask anything, I tell them, how'd they ever learn anything?"

I had talked to Aunt Eleanor (Coats) Koehler and asked her if she knew of any interesting events in her mother, Rebecca's young life - like, had there been any Indians there? "Oh, yes" Aunt Eleanor answered, "There were Indians there. When Nancy and Esther went to school there were Indians in the class with them. They went to the old yellow school in Jamestown. It was near the Pokehaven Mine - about a mile south of Esther and Orlando Day's home. The old yellow school is gone now. They built a new school years ago there. The Indians went to school there. There were Indians all around there. And when my mother was in her teens, she worked for Mrs. Beemans, that was near the bridge over Swan Creek. There was a grocery store and Swan Creek post office. When my mother worked there they had this great big house and the Indians used to come from Mount Pleasant to Saginaw to get their money from the government two or three times - well, a couple times a year, and they would come as far as Beemans and stay all night and then they'd go to Saginaw and get their money (Note: as provided in the Treaty of Saginaw) and come back and stay all night at Beemans again. And then they'd go on from there to Mount Pleasant. I know I've heard my mother say there'd be about a hundred of them. They'd just camp out there sort of and they'd stay there and she'd feed them. I know I've heard my mother tell about how at the table they'd have such bad manners. They'd reach and take a dish off the table and put it on their plate and start eating right out of the dish. They wouldn't pass it or anything".

"Oh, yes, I heard my mother tell another thing. There was a family - Blowers - in Jamestown. There was a lot of them. There was this old Tom Blower. He had a lot of land around there. He was a good farmer, I guess - had a big farm. His first wife - the Indians used to call her Madame Blower - she was a Madame. My mother used to tell what a pretty riding habit she had and she had a cream-colored pony and she rode in her riding habit and she was very friendly with the Indians. She was very nice to them. After she died, Tom Blower married another woman and when the Indians came around she told them to GET! She had no use for them and then they had no use for her. And I know I've visited that home. A girl that I used to chum with lived there. They had old Shop-en-a-gon's picture on the wall. He was a famous Indian Chief. He died since I can remember".

So, that's where the McLeans and the Lincolns had been up to the time that Becky McLean and Henry Coats were married. The marriage was performed by Anson Spooner, Becky's brother-in-law. It was probably performed in Anson's home. An 1896 plat map shows that he had a 60 acre farm on the south side of Hart Road about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of Miller Road.

After they were married I believe that Henry's first job was working for David E. Benjamin. Benjamin had a farm that included all of the land south-west of Gratiot Road and St. Andrews Road down to the river. He also owned the land that is now St. Andrew's Cemetery. Benjamins house was on Gratiot almost across from the entrance to Oakwood Cemetery and the house that was given to Henry and Becky to live in was located on the west side of St. Andrews Road about 100 yards south of Gratiot.

Henry had told that one of his early jobs was of driving a horse-drawn grader to grade the roads in the new Oakwood Cemetery. When Saginaw City was first established, the pioneer cemetery was located in a triangular block bounded by Niagara, Wayne and the railroad tracks. That cemetery had been closed and the bodies had been moved to Oakwood Cemetery.

One of Henry's assignments was to drive the milk wagon to town and sell milk. The milk wagon in those days carried the milk in large cans. As he came to each house on his route, the woman of the house would come out with a jar or other container. He would ladle out the desired amount into her jar and she would pay him. In the winter time he would make one trip each day but in

the summertime, because there was no refrigeration, he would make two trips per day.

I remember my grandfather telling me of one of his customers, Joe Fordney. At the time that Henry delivered milk to him, Joe was a poor man. He had just been married and Henry says that they used a door for a table. They had laid the door across two boxes and that was the table. Joe became a timber cruiser for the lumber companies. A timber cruiser is an expert sent out by a lumber company to evaluate a certain stand of timber to assess the amount of available lumber that would result from logging it. He carried a long measuring stick, resembling somewhat an overgrown yardstick and slide-rule combined. By taking certain measurements of a tree, he could calculate how much lumber there was in a tree. Then by spot-checks and counting, he could arrive at the expected yield of the plat. The timber cruiser was an important man as his expertise or lack of it could result in profit or loss for the company.

During his work, Joe located pieces of property that seemed good investments for himself and he eventually became quite wealthy. Later, he became United States Senator from Michigan. He owned a large mansion on Gratiot just west of Fordney Park.

Henry Coats had worked for Paine when he first came to Saginaw, and he later worked for him as a teamster, hauling brick from Paine's brickyard at Paine Station (south of Shields). I remember my Dad saying that his father had hauled the bricks for the original Bristol Street (now Remington) sewer.

Dad told of how one winter Henry was hauling bricks by sleigh. The river was frozen over solid and he would drive the sleigh east from the brickyard to the river. He would get on the ice and follow the river down to South Saginaw and get off somewhere along there. This one day as he was going along the river he heard the ice begin to crack. Either the sleigh was overloaded or there was a thin spot in the ice. There was no time to think or to waste! Henry leaped off the sleigh and in one swooping motion, he pulled the pin that held the evener and whipple trees to the tongue of the sleigh and gave a crack of the end of the line as a whip to the rump of the horses and a scream at the team to "GIDDAP!" The horses made a few mad leaps forward just as the ice cracked more and the sleigh settled down into the depths of the river. The ice held solid for the team and Henry but the sleigh and the load were lost.

Aunt Eleanor says that Henry had worked for Paine before he was married. During that time he didn't draw his wages regularly, but would just take $5 or $10 as needed and let the rest accumulate. When he was planning to be married he wanted to buy some land. He wanted 40 acres near the corner of Gratiot Road and Graham Road. Paine wouldn't sell him that land but did consent to give him 16 acres of land in payment of his back wages. The land was on the west side of the South River Road, 1½ miles south of Gratiot Road. The railroad ran diagonally across one corner of the property. There was a house on the small triangular section and the rest of the property was on the north side of the tracks. The tracks were very close to the house. Most of the land was poorly drained and grown over with brush. However, Henry accepted the deal. He continued to work for Paine and did other hauling jobs with his team.

Aunt Eleanor relates that while living there, Henry worked at least one winter in the lumber woods. Becky lived with Mrs. Fayerweather at Paines while Henry was away in the woods.

Aunt Eleanor also tells of life at Paines. She said that her Dad told her that as he was cutting the brush that had overgrown the land, a rattlesnake coiled itself around his boot and was preparing to strike. Henry had a little dog named Bobby. Well, Bobby saw the rattler and leapt at him, catching him behind the head. Bobby just shook the rattler back and forth until the rattler was dead. Bobby then went and rubbed his snout in the dirt and rubbed his paws around his jaws. Good Bobby!

Henry and Rebecca were married four years before the birth of their first child, Eleanor. During those four years the 1880 census was taken and shows that Deborah (Hadden)(Coats) Nestell was living with them. I should retrace my narrative a little to recount where she has been.

I had said that she was married to Moses Nestell and they lived on a 40 acre farm west of Essex. George Coats lived with them. Moses and Deborah had the following children:

1. Mary R. Nestell, born in Essex on Aug. 12, 1856. She married Daniel Ordway in Ingram, Clinton Co., Mich. on Jan., 1875. Believe they had no children.
2. Adeline Nestell, (called "Addie"), a twin, born Oct. 10, 1861 in Essex. Married to Frank Tuttle on Dec. 14, 1880 in Essex. Believe that she had no children and believe that she did not reach old age.

3. Angeline Nestell (called "Annie"), twin to Addie, born Oct. 10, 1861 in Essex. Married to Eli Ordway on Aug. 20, 1881 in Essex. Their children were:
   a. Rebecca Ordway - Married Wesley Sherman. They lived in North Star, Mich. and had one son named R. G. Sherman.
   b. Ethel Ordway - Married Walter Foster. She is widowed and is/was living in St. Johns in a mobile home park
   c. Jerome Ordway - As a young man he went to Outlook, Saskatchewan Province, Canada and lived his life there. He has a son and a daughter. Believe the son lives in Outlook and the daughter in Seattle.
   d. Guy Ordway - Believe he lived in Lansing. I have no information about his family

I met Jerome Ordway once several years ago. I happened to be at Dad's house when a knock came on the door, and Jerome was there. Dad had not seen him in many years. Jerome related to me how he happened to go to Outlook. He says that a horse breeder had sold a train car load of horses and they were to be delivered out there. He hired Jerome to go along to care for the horses enroute - feed them, water them and exercise them at stops along the route. When they arrived at Outlook, Jerome delivered his horses and then set out for a little relaxation. He met a rancher in a saloon and the spent the evening drinking. As the evening wore on, the rancher was in much worse shape than Jerome, so Jerome helped him out of the saloon and into a buckboard. Jerome drove the rancher home then and got him into bed. Jerome then spent the night there. The next day the rancher offered him a job. Jerome took the job and stayed there. Later, he took out a homestead on a tract of land and made it his home. He did not follow the example of the western farmer but farmed as they did back in Michigan. He did a lot of "truck farming" or farming of vegetables. He said that many of the people there called him the "Michigan Farmer".

Moses Nestell served in the Army in the Civil War. I have not sent for his records. He died sometime before 1880 when Deborah Ann Nestell came to live with Henry and Rebecca Coats. Later, she went to live with George Coats.

I have not spoken of George Coats and I believe that the family would prefer that I did not speak of him. However, a genealogy is only to record and not to condemn nor to be ashamed of "those skeletons in the closet".

George worked as a laborer and "hired man" for various farmers in the area. He did not marry until late in life. When he did, he married Bertha Bartlett. They one one daughter, Celia Ann Coats. One day, in a fit of anger, George struck her. She died as the result of the blow. The death record gives her date of death as May 14, 1908 at the age of eleven years and nine months. The place of death was at Bingham Township (where the village of St. Johns is located). Cause of death: "Meningitis following an injury which also fractured the nasal bone, said injury said to have been inflicted by the father".

George and Bertha were living in Essex township at that time. George was declared insane and was sent to the State Hospital at Traverse City. He stayed there until his death in 1925. He is buried in Sowle Cemetery, Essex township, Clinton County.

After the birth of Eleanor Coats on Aug. 27, 1883, Deborah Ann Nestell went back to Essex to live with George Coats. Later they moved to Muir, Mich. She died on May 11, 1901 in Muir, Mich. Her obituary reads:

> "Mrs. Deborah Ann Hadden Coats Nestell died on Saturday, May 11, 1901 at the home of her son, George L. Coats, on Liberty St., from old age. She had been gradually growing weaker for a long time, and had patiently resigned herself to the inevitable, with an abiding faith in the hereafter. The funeral took place on Monday from the home, Rev. Baille preaching an impressive sermon. (Followed by a summary of her life). She came to Muir about five years ago, and has made her home with her son, George L. Coats since that time. The funeral took place Monday with interment in the Muir Cemetery".

I have looked in the Muir Cemetery but find no grave marker with her name. I checked with the sextant of the cemetery and he has no record of her grave. He had one grave marked "A. Coats" that might have referred to her.

Back to Paines Station and Henry and Rebecca Coats.

The children of Henry and Rebecca Coats were:
1. Eleanor, born Aug. 27, 1883
2. Hugh Leonard, born Nov. 2, 1885
3. Harry, born Dec. 7, 1889
4. Chester Benjamin, born Feb. 22, 1893
5. Bessie Jane, born July 25, 1898

(See Appendix for full listing of all descendants)

Aunt Eleanor Koehler describes her schooling at Paines:

"I was at Paines until I was 16 years old. I went to school at Paines School. Before that there wasn't any school there. I would have had to have gone up to the Graham School on Gratiot and Graham Roads and that was three miles and Pa said that was too far for a child to go to school in the wintertime and so I didn't go to school until I was past seven. Well, Pa and some of the other men got together and petitioned to have a fractional district take part of Jamestown and part of Thomastown to bring a school nearer to us. So, they did that but they - that was when I was old enough - but there was a flaw in the law that the school couldn't be bonded until the school had been there two years. So they rented an old boarding house at the Paine Brick Yard on the road they call Stroebel Road. Paines was a little farther down by the tracks. They rented the boarding house one year. They had long tables and long benches where the men used to eat and they used them for tables. And the next year they rented the old sleeping shanty. That had two little windows up high and it was dark and we had little oil lamps and we had the same old tables. And that was the two years I went to school there. I had to walk down the tracks. We had to go outside to get our water or to go to the toilet. Yes, there was a pump and we pumped our water. There was a wood stove in the school. In the old boarding house there was a dining room and then there was a sitting room for the men to sit in and there was a stove in there and so when there was a recess we would go out there and play in the men's sitting room".

Even though Eleanor Coats received little formal education, she - like her father - made much use of books and became a very educated person. She had told how her father would go to the Butman-Fish Library and get books and take them home and study. So, she too, studied from books. She has fine books on literature and poetry, including the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson, and enjoys reading good books.

The family all lived on the 16 acres at Paines Station until about 1900. In that year, Henry Coats bought 60 acres of land located on the west side of the Preuss Road about 1/3 mile north of the O'Hara Road. Two years later he bought an additional 40 acres across the road (on the east side of the road).

Here Chester Coats grew up. Here he learned to love the soil. He learned to love the art and science of farming and enjoyed the challenge that nature and the elements posed for him. I believe that the land became such a part of him here that, even though he followed a mechanical career, the love of the land never left him.

Eleanor married Ernest Koehler on April 4, 1908. He later became a successful salesman for a wholesale grocery company.

Hugh Coats left home as a young man and went to Chicago. He became employed with the Alligator Belt Lacing Company and rose in rank to become the head of that company. In those days most factories operated a central power plant and all machinery was driven by belts from a main power shaft. As the years progressed, factories changed to individual powered machinery but the use of belts still increased. The company was very successful and Hugh was successful with it. He lived in Wheaton, Ill. until his retirement and then moved to Tucson, Ariz.

Harry and Chet were then left home to help their Pa with the farm work. Later, Harry too, left home. He went to Detroit and became engaged in a successful sales career.

At the time of Chester's birth, steam had been the King of Power. The steam railroads were in their heyday. Steam powered thrashing machines were in evidence all over the countryside. Chester also had adquired an admiration for the power and strength of these huge engines. However, after the turn of the century a new power was coming - the internal combustion engine. Chester Coats, as a young man, joined the mechanical revolution and got Wheels - a motorcycle! His was one of the earliest models and he became a liberated man. He traveled all over the countryside going distances that old-timers thought unbelievable. He tells of going calling on a young girl over in Thomas Township, Myrtle Burlison. She was the daughter of his father's old friend, Will Burlison. Of course, he also called on her with the horse and buggy and they went riding. They went to square

dances at Frost Corners, at Dice and at Hemlock.

Well, in the course of time and true love, Chester Coats and Myrtle Lulu Burlison were married. They were married on June 28, 1916. It was a simple ceremony held in Reb. Sibley's parlor. Rev. Sibley had formerly been the pastor of the Wesleyan Methodist Church at Dice and was well liked by the Burlisons. He was at that time living in Saginaw. Harry Coats "stood up" with Chester and Ann Wieland (later Kennedy) was a bridesmaid for Myrtle. They didn't go on a honeymoon but returned to the farm to work. Mother often says her honeymoon was to the bean field.

Now let's stop right here. We'll leave Chester and Myrtle on their way to the bean field while we take a look at the Burlisons, the Pierce family, and the Leamans.

The Descendants of

HENRY ABSALOM and REBECCA (McLEAN) COATS

Henry A. Coats was born Nov. 3, 1853 in Essex, Clinton County, Mich., married Rebecca McLean on April 27, 1879 in James township, Saginaw County, Mich., died Sept. 18, 1937. Rebecca McLean was born June 3, 1861 in James township, Saginaw County, Mich., died Oct. 16, 1943. Both are buried in Owen Cemetery, Thomas township, Saginaw County, Mich.
Their descendants are listed below in outline form, i.e., Roman numerals to designate children; capital letters for grandchildren; Arabic numerals for great-grandchildren, etc.

I. Eleanor Coats, born Aug. 27, 1881, married Ernest Koehler on April 4, 1908. He was born in 1883, died Aug. 17, 1967. She died Oct. 5, 1978.
   A. Ralph H. Koehler, born Jan. 17, 1911, married Margaret Haines
      1. Janet Koehler, born Aug. 1, ____, married Michael Marks
         a. Pamela Marks, born Sept. 22, 1961
         b. Thomas Marks, born Feb. 4, 1964
      2. Carol Koehler, married Ronald Mohr
         a. David Mohr, born June 30, 1960
         b. Terry Mohr, born March 11, 1963
   B. Winifred Koehler, married Alfred LaFreniere
      1. Frederick (Fritz) LaFreniere
      2. Larry LaFreniere
      3. Dennis LaFreniere

II. Hugh Leonard, born Nov. 2, 1885. Married Lenore Rogers. As a young man, he went to Wheaton, Ill. and lived there until his retirement. He moved to Tucson, Ariz. and lived there until his death on March 2, 1961. His widow, Lenore Coats is living with her daughter, Maxine Lents in Glendora, Cal.
   A. Dorothy Coats, married Henry Brink. Both are deceased.
      1. Barbara Jean Brink
      2. Peggy Brink
      3. Gloria Brink
      4. Roger K. Brink
      5. Dorothy Mary Brink
   B. Maxine Coats, married _____Lents. They have no children. She is living in Glendora, CA
   C. June Coats, married 1st _____Shaw, 2nd James Rohis
      1. Suelee Shaw
      2. Twins: Carl Rohis
      3. James Rohis
      4. Cynthia Rohis

D. Hugh L. Coats, Jr. (called "Bud"), married Margaret_____(called "Marney"). They live in Wayzata, Minn.
1. David K. Coats
2. Ann Coats
3. Lee Coats (girl)
4. Janet Coats

E. David Henry Coats, married Cora Lee (called "Coey") living at Cave Creek, Ariz.
1. "Topper" (boy)
2. "Sonny" (girl)

III. Harry Coats, born Dec. 7, 1889. Married 1st, Laura _____(children by first marr.); 2nd to Bessie (Snow) Funkey. He died May 1, 1972
A. Donald Coats, married Helen_____
1. Mark Coats

B. Dr. Jack Coats, married Dorothy _____, live in West Bloomfield, MI
1. John Coats

C. Betty Coats, married Ronald Milks. They live in Venice, Fla. I don't have names of the children.

IV. Chester Benjamin Coats, born Feb. 22, 1893. Married Myrtle Lulu Burlison on June 28, 1916. She was born April 23, 1895, daugh. of Wm. A. and Elizabeth (Leaman) Burlison. They live 1834 Allegan, Saginaw, MI 48602
A. Walter Henry Coats, born July 9, 1917, married Ruth Galonska on Sept. 9, 1939. She was born June 24, 1921, died April 3, 1973. Marr. 2nd to Francis "Sandy" Jewell, on June 8, 1974
1. Mary Ruth Coats, born Feb. 18, 1946, marr. Fred Gozdcik
a. Mark David, born Dec. 3, 1974
b. Kevin

2. David Henry, born July 13, 1949
3. Stephen, born Oct. 13, 1952

B. Freeman William Coats, born March 22, 1919, married Virginia Jean Bueker on Nov. 9, 1941. She was born Dec. 21, 1919, daugh. of Henry A. and L. Jean (Pratt) Bueker
1. William Henry Coats, born June 15, 1944. Marr. Judith Dayle Fischer on July 1, 1967. She was born Oct. 1, 1947, daugh. of Floyd and June (Ervine) Fischer.
a. Anderson William, born Feb. 7, 1970
b. Megan Michelle, born Feb. 2, 1972
c. Gretchel Eileen, born April 15, 1974

2. Carolyn Virginia Coats, born Oct. 17, 1947, marr. Thomas Medendorp on July 7, 1966. He was born Oct. 17, 1944 and is the son of Henry and Josephine (DeGroat) Medendorp. They live at Ada, MI
   a. Douglas Henry, born April 15, 1967
   b. Suzanne Marie, born June 22, 1970

C. Milton Edward Coats, born Feb. 20, 1921. Marr. Jeanette Ewald on Feb. 8, 1947. She was born June 10, 1923, daugh. of Henry W. and Bertha I. Ewald.
   1. Barbara, born Nov. 24, 1955 - Marr. Dennis McAfee - 12-6-1980
      a. Mary Rose - July 14, 1982
      b. Andrew James - June 22, 1984
   2. Susan, born Aug. 11, 1959

V. Bessie Jane Coats, born July 25, 1898. Marr. 1st Delbert Hawkins. Marr. 2nd, Leo Lockwood on Dec. 24, 1924. Leo was born Oct. 1, 1896, died May 28, 1978.

A. Raymond Carl Hawkins, born July 29, 1920. Marr. Maxine Rutkowski on Feb. 13,_____. Have no children, live near Minneapolis, Minn.

B. Teddie Earl Hawkins, born Aug. 27, 1922 (Note; His name is 'Teddie', not 'Theodore'), Marr. Albertina Remer on March 11, 1941
   1. Karen Jo Ann, born Jan. 25, 1947, marr. James Bosch
      a. James Earl Bosch, born Sept. 26, 1970
      b. Carol Lynn Bosch, born Jan. 4, 1972
      c. Tina Bosch, born Dec. 13, 1973
   2. Bruce Hawkins, born Oct. 15, 1949. Not marr.
   3. Joyce Lou Ann, born April 26, 1951. Marr. Larry Edwin Miller, II, on July 12, 1969
      a. Melissa, born March 30, 1974

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